# A SAWMILL STORY

# OR

## MID 20TH CENTURY CIRCULAR SAWMILLING

George Abel

FAMILY
HISTORY
ABEL

A SAWMILL STORY , is the work of George A. Abel 1945-

Biography of Homer Abel's sawmill era, 1944-1977

First edition, 2023

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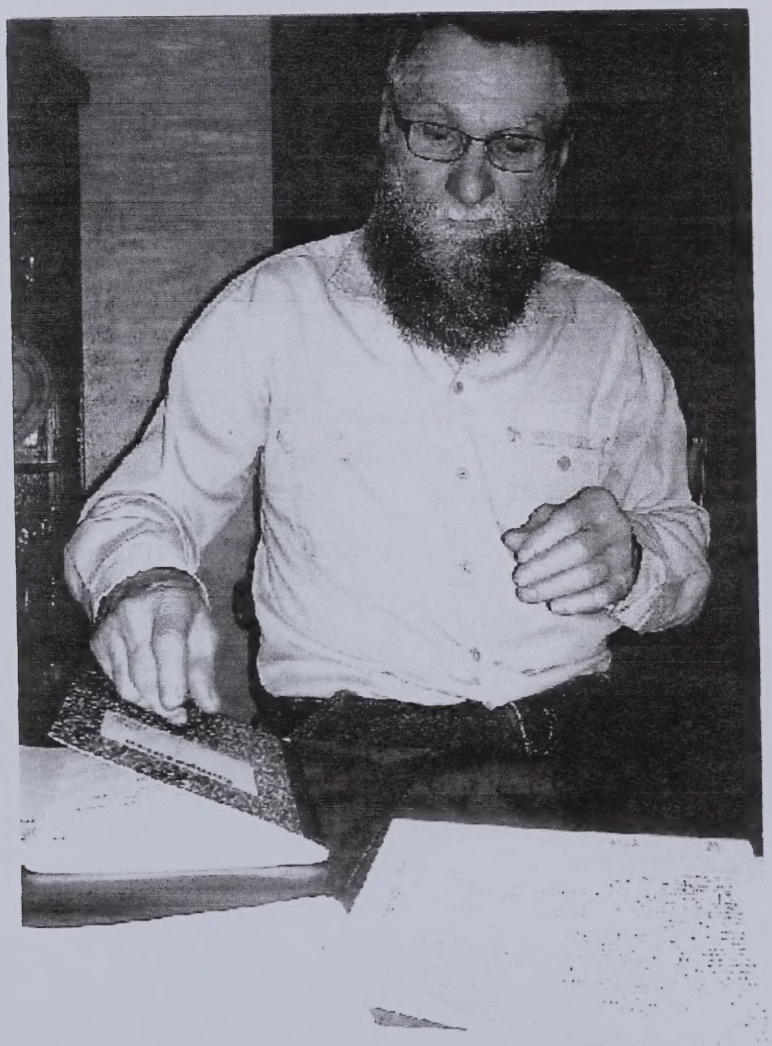
# ABEL'S SAWMILL

First and foremost, I want to give thanks to GOD for giving me the ability to write this story. Thank-you to my wife for being there and encouraging me. My mother, for saving the paperwork. Many others encouraged me. Mary Boyd did an excellent job of editing 1944-1960. For the others who will be part of this endeavor, thank-you.

George Abel

George Abel



This story is an account of a man who desired to make his own lumber in the late 1940's, in northern Indiana. The story is mostly written in the form of information and facts.

It describes an era that was passing, even as Homer Abel was building a business using circular sawmills. It expresses the determination and perseverance that Homer had. It gives a picture of the hard work that was required, and the mind of a man who was not afraid to move ahead while learning new skills.

The years of 1968, 1974, and most of 1975 show what he was doing and thinking. He kept a brief set of notes in a journal during those years. It is very insightful, and honest.

**Abel's Sawmill: The Beginning**
**1944 – 1950**

Homer Abel was born June 20th, 1923, in Auburn, Indiana. His family were farmers and truck gardeners, using horses to farm with. He attended Auburn schools, graduating in 1941. He studied agriculture and was in drafting and shop classes. Their farm crops included com, wheat, oats, and hay. There were also cows, chickens, and horses to tend to.

On July 30th, 1944, Homer married G'Nell Seely in Auburn. Together they raised cattle, milked cows, had hogs and chickens. Homer kept honeybees and they made Maple syrup. They lived on Carper Road, later known as County Road 43, north of Road 50, in Jackson Township, Dekalb County, Indiana. The farm consisted of 71 Acres, with 50 acres tillable.

Homer's interests included mechanical work as well as woodworking. As early as 1944, Homer needed lumber for gates and building material. I believe he had already built a 20x24 foot building for a workshop because the lumber in that building was almost all salvaged materials from other locations. He did make some of the rafters out of pole stock from the woods on the farm. Some of it came from a log house remains that was close by.

Homer frequently read publications from, The Belsaw Machinery Co. There was a Belsaw Bulletin from 1944 in the paperwork I found in his shop. This company was started by a gentleman in 1921, who also saw a need for lumber. There was an article in the paper, "How to Make Lumber", The company made sawmills and many related pieces of woodworking equipment.

As World War II ended in August 1945, there was an optimism that invaded the country as soldiers returned home. A can-do spirit prevailed and a building boom came over the next few years. Homer had been farming with horses and a Farmall F-14 tractor. The tractor had a belt pulley and could power equipment.

On October 19th, 1945, George Abel was born to Homer and G'Nell, at Sanders Hospital in Auburn. They lived simple lives and purchased only what they could not produce on the farm. Everyday life consisted of cooking with a kerosene stove, using a Maytag electric wringer washer, an ice box and canning meat and produce. They did have some apple trees, grape vines and planted a garden. The water well was 150 feet from the house, near the barn. Wood was cut for the stove in the dining room to keep warm. They were using 3 rooms at the time.

On November 4th, 1947, Homer ordered an A-10 Belsaw Sawmill. The sawmill arrived at the Pennsylvania RR depot on November 28th, 1947. This begins the sawmill adventure. It was packaged in 3 parts, the carriage and shaft, the track, and the pulley and cable. The total weight was 579 pounds. It probably came in at Waterloo.

There were a couple of trucks that were in use at the time. One was a 1928 Ford AA 1 1/2-ton truck, Engine#32728, which had been purchased early in 1947. He had also recently purchased a 1941 Ford 1-ton with single tires on the rear. It was being used as his firewood hauler. Its engine number was 186569315.

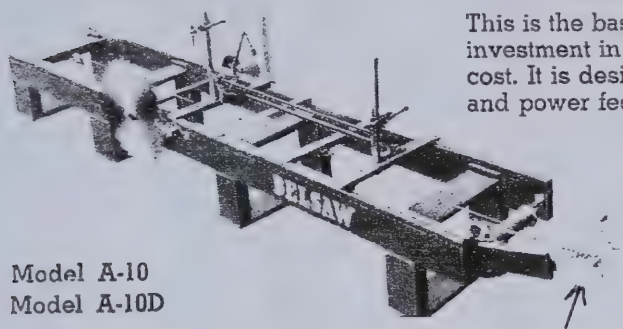
The sawmill had a 6' long carriage with a 2' extension at each end. The mandrel was 1-3/8" diameter, and about 44" long. The mill came with a hardware kit and a hand cranked feed to move the log into the saw blade. The hand-crank mechanism was located at the far rear of the track. It was the least expensive of the various types of feed works available. Two *head blocks*, or upright posts to secure the log to the carriage were equipped with *dogs* which were used to secure the log to the carriage. These dogs were made of cast iron and slid up and down on the posts. They had a spiked tooth that was set or secured on the post by an

# World's Lowest Priced High Efficiency Sawmills

**BELSAW MILLS** listed by Model Number include Carriage, Mandrel Assembly, Feed and Saw Blade as specified and described by Unit Number on other pages of this folder. Customers desiring to figure their own combination of UNITS to make up a complete Sawmill differing from the listed Models may do so by simply ordering the desired Unit Numbers.

## SAWMILL for LOGS up to 10-ft. LONG and up to 18-inch Diameter

(Minimum Power Required--15 H. P.)




Model A-10
Model A-10D

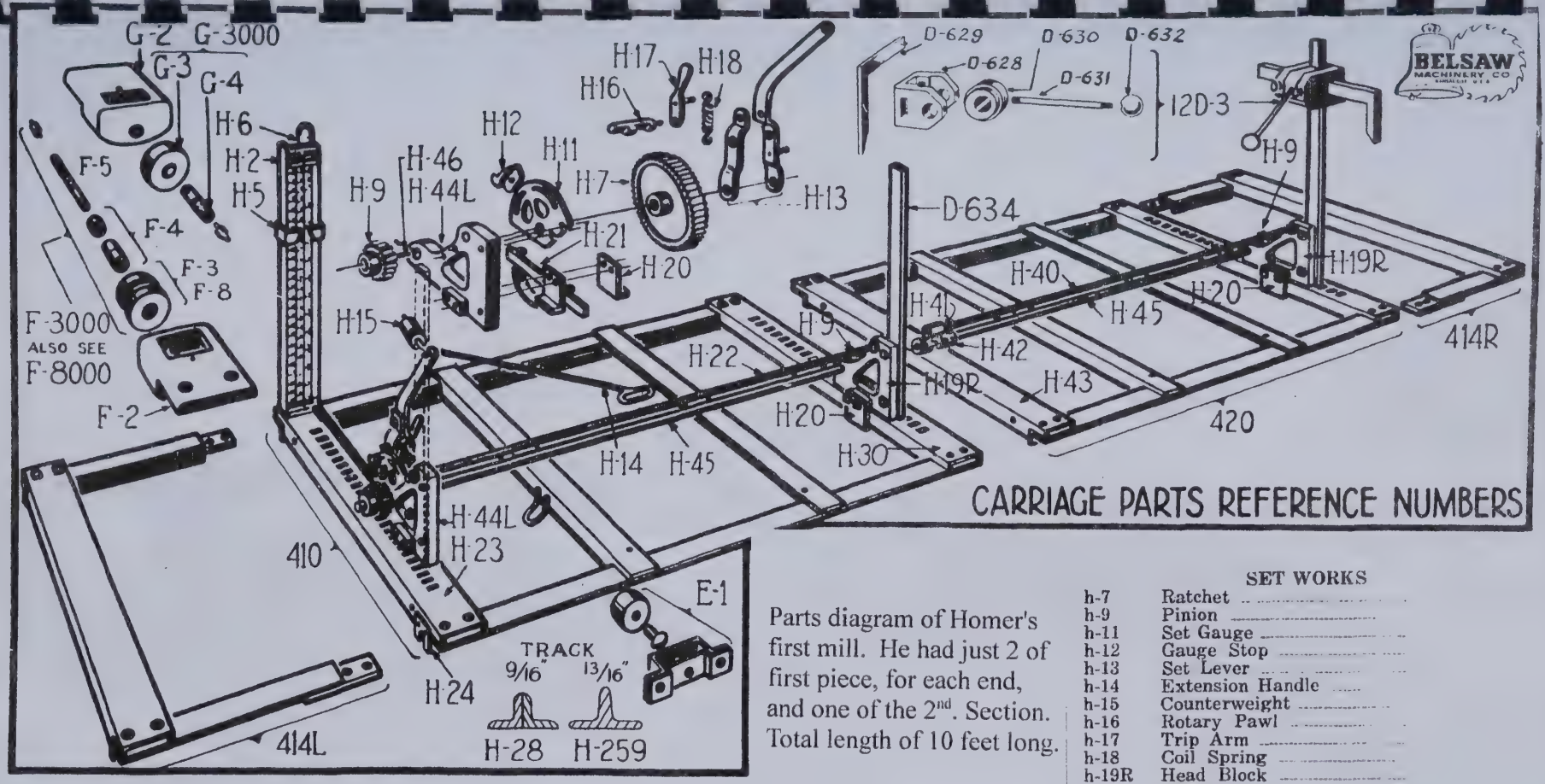
This is the basic One-Man sawmill for farmers to make own lumber with least investment in equipment, simplicity of operation, lowest power and operating cost. It is designed to permit later addition of carriage extensions, larger saw and power feed at any time.

**Includes:** No. 410 Main Carriage, 6' long with 2 top dogs; No. 500 Mandrel; No. 520 Power-Save Hand Feed; 36" Spring Set Saw; with hardware and tracks for 18' long base.

MODEL A-10, Wt. 680 lbs. Price F. O. B. factory.....$198.00

↑ hand crank feed

The top model, A-10, was what the first mill looked like.
Homer had to build the wood framework, for it.
Notice the hand crank at the right.
He began with a 36" solid tooth blade.




Parts diagram of Homer's first mill. He had just 2 of first piece, for each end, and one of the 2nd. Section. Total length of 10 feet long.

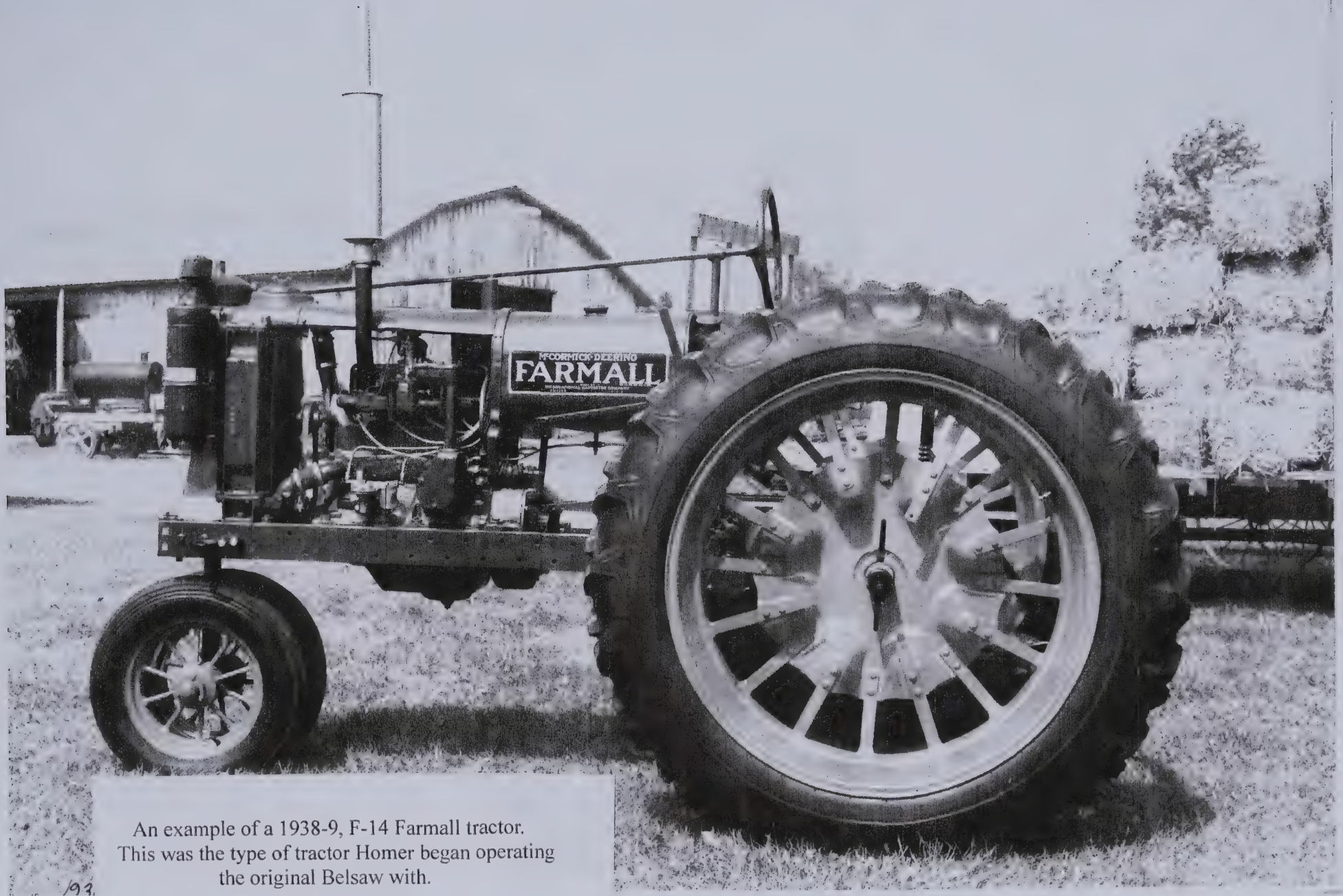
## PARTS LIST MODEL "A" & "M" SAWMILLS

| Part No. | Description |
|---|---|
| | **TRACK & ROLLER TRUCKS** |
| f-2 | Guide Truck Boxing |
| h-28 | 5/8" Track — 2 Pieces of Angle Iron Set Back to Back (Use With F-3). |
| F-3000 | Guide Roller Assembly for h-28 Track |
| f-3 | Guide Roller for h-28 Track |
| f-4 | Roller Bearing & Bushing f-6 |
| f-5 | Axle and Grease Fitting |
| h-259 | Track 13/16" Solid Steel 6' Length (h-259 Track takes F-8000 Roller Asby.) |
| F-8000 | Guide Roller Assembly |
| f-8 | Guide Rollers for 13/16" Heavy Track |
| e-1 | Sub Guide Truck Asmbly. |

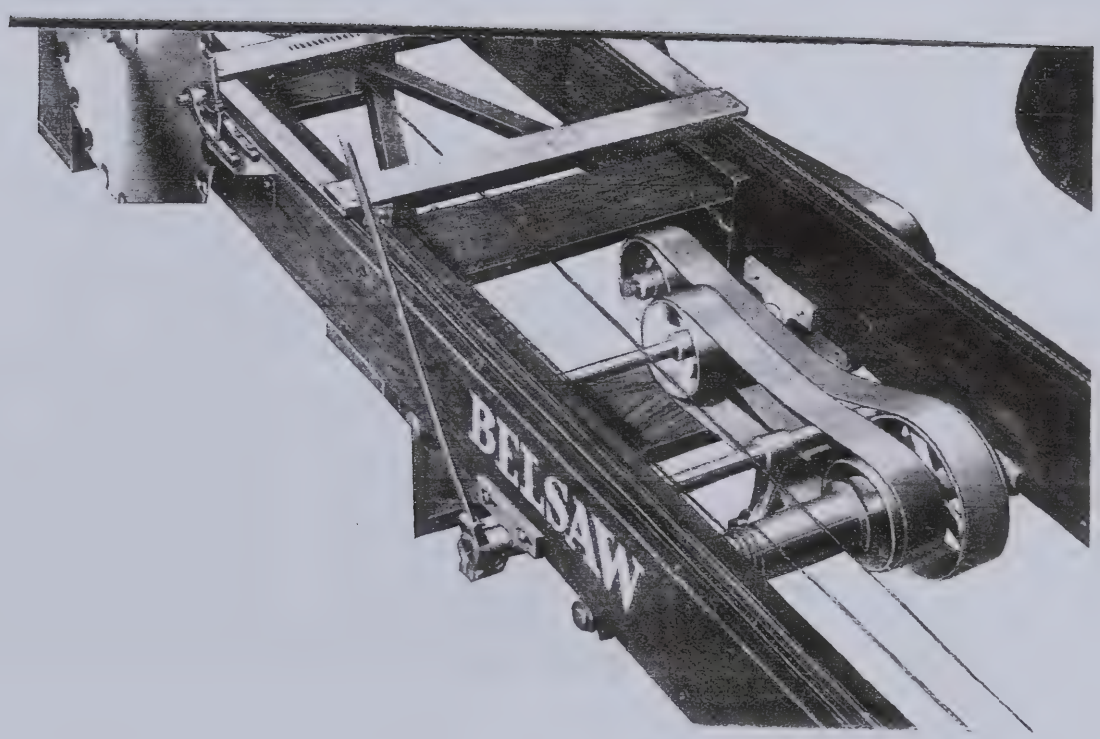
| Part No. | Description |
|---|---|
| G-3000 | Back Roller Assembly for Flat Track |
| g-3 | Back Truck Roller |
| g-4 | Axle & Grease Fitting |
| | **TOP DOG** |
| 12D-3 | Top Dog Assembly |
| d-628 | Top Dog Box |
| d-629 | Top Dog Spike |
| d-630 | Top Dog Pawl |
| d-631 | Top Dog Lever |
| d-632 | Top Dog Ball Handle |
| d-634 | Post for 12D-3 |
| | **UPRIGHT SCALE** |
| H-1 | Upright Scale Assembly |
| h-2 | Scale |
| h-5 | Indicator |

| | |
|---|---|
| | **SET WORKS** |
| h-7 | Ratchet |
| h-9 | Pinion |
| h-11 | Set Gauge |
| h-12 | Gauge Stop |
| h-13 | Set Lever |
| h-14 | Extension Handle |
| h-15 | Counterweight |
| h-16 | Rotary Pawl |
| h-17 | Trip Arm |
| h-18 | Coil Spring |
| h-19R | Head Block |
| h-20 | Holddown |
| h-21 | Holddown, Stop & Shield |
| h-22 | Yoke Rod |
| h-23 | Knee, tail |
| h-24 | Track Brush |
| h-30 | Knee, head |
| h-44L | Headblock |
| h-45 | Gear Shaft |
| h-46 | Brake |
| | **EXTENSION CARRIAGE** |
| h-40 | Yoke Rod, Extension |
| h-41 | Yoke Coupler Nut |
| h-42 | Gearshaft Coupling |
| h-43 | Knee |

BELSAW MACHINERY CO
315 WESTPORT ROAD • KANSAS CITY 11, MO.




An example of a 1938-9, F-14 Farmall tractor.
This was the type of tractor Homer began operating
the original Belsaw with.




A view of the powered feed works,
Homer installed within a year of purchase.

Homer Abel had a 1928 FORD AA in the late 1940's, with a Flat Bed on it, To Haul items with.



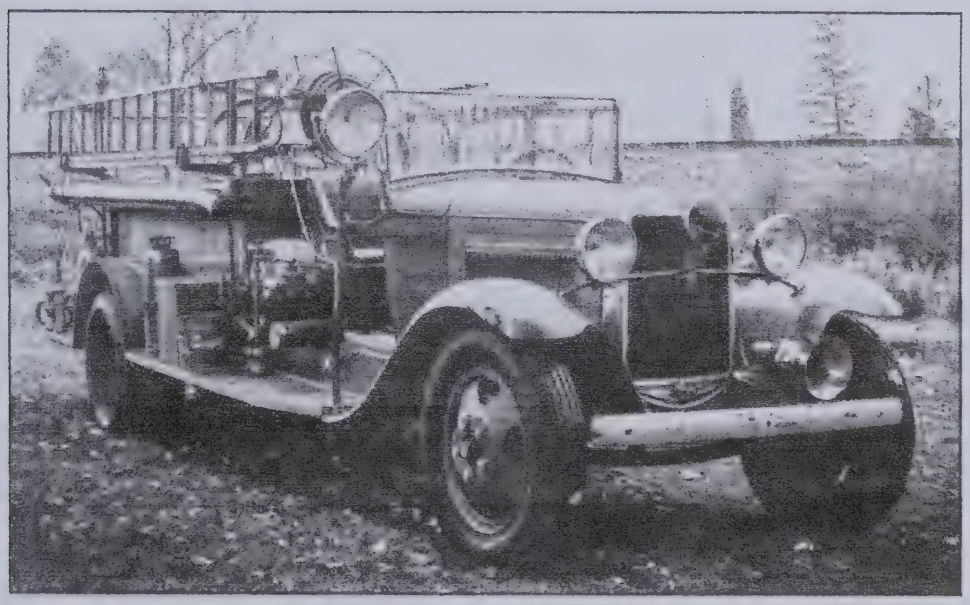


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Waterloo's 1930 Ford Model AA fire truck can still be seen in area parades.**

This picture is only to get an idea of what the 1928 Ford Homer had looked like.

off-center cam inside of them that got tighter when the dog handle was pulled in a downward motion. The track was pressed steel and was about 2" wide and ¼" high in the center, and ¼" in width. It came in 6' lengths and was secured to the wood framework with 1-1/2" wood screws, on alternating sides of the track. The saw blade was 36" in diameter and had 30 teeth, and was a solid tooth saw. Rather than being able to change the teeth, you needed to eventually grind out the gullet between the teeth and make more depth for the teeth to cut properly. This also made the saw blade smaller in diameter over time. The sawmill cost $208.60 plus the shipping of $18.50, and this did not include any of the wood support work to attach the mill to. Homer also ordered an 11" diameter pulley that was 8" wide to mount on the mandrel shaft.

Before the sawmill was operational, Homer had been doing some welding work, as there was an invoice for 50 pounds of hard cast welding rods, from December of 1947. They were purchased at Mossman Yarnelle Co. in Fort Wayne, at 230 Pearl St. I do not know what welder he was using at the time. To my knowledge, he was self-taught.

In January 1948, Homer purchased a wood splitting tool. It came from Buffalo, NY and was called "Thunderbolt". It was a steel cylinder about 12" long and tapered from 1-1/2" to about 2-1/4" in diameter. This tool used granular black powder as its power. The small end was tapered, with a hole in the center of the small end. The beginning of the taper was sharp like a hole punch. There were four ridges turned into that end starting about ¾" up from the sharp end. These were used to keep the tool secure after being driven into the wood. The large end was solid steel, to permit it to be struck with a sledge. The center bore from the small end was several inches deep and l" plus in diameter. There was a small hole drilled 5" from the large end to insert a fuse. The black powder came in metal drums, that were 10" in diameter and around 14" high. He had purchased these at Auburn City Hardware. The powder was granular, and the size was 1/8". As I got older, I learned that the Thunderbolt was not used often, and when Homer stopped using the tool altogether, he found another use for the powder. One year on July 4th, he sprinkled a small trail on the ground and then used a corn cob mounted on a stiff wire, soaked in kerosene, and lit a match to light the powder. It burned with an intense bright white light, but would not explode because it is not compressed, and a blasting cap is not used. Each piece of powder makes a sound like Rice Krispies cereal but louder, as it ignites.

The original mill building was built on rocks buried in the ground, much as the old log cabins were. The building was 18'x36' and was of lean-to type construction. It was open to the north side and had a height of around 9', with the low side being around 7'. This meant that the roof was really quite flat. Most of the rafters were poles cut in the woods and the rest of the building was made of used lumber from many sources.

Most of the rafters of the building were Cottonwood, 4-5" in diameter and there were a couple that were Hickory. The spacing was 3" wide and the posts for the building were either used railroad ties or other salvaged material. Most of the sheathing was salvaged from other locations, and some was sawed on the new sawmill. The roof material was 45-pound, granular roll roofing. There were three windows on the south side, and they had been purchased at auction.

I remember my father talking about the early trials of learning to operate the sawmill. There were problems with sawing straight lumber. The most pressing issue was how much power was available to run the mill. The book for using the mill stated that there needed to be a minimum of 15 horsepower. The tractor he was using was rated at 14 horsepower. The issue was when the tractor was under load it was not producing its full power. This caused the blade to stay dished and then friction was caused at the center and edge of the blade. The blade was tensioned to stretch at the rim when it ran at the full speed, causing it to be flat, therefore causing no friction. All of this also caused the blade to lead or pull to one side. The blade itself was a solid plate of steel, which meant the teeth are not replaceable. They needed to be filed

The metal sided section extended to the right a total of 55' long and 20' wide as the original sawmill building. Forrest Brewer helped George Abel tear it down. It was roofed with roll roofing. The roof did not have much pitch, therefore it needed attention about every 4-5 years. The higher roof line section was built in 1960, and also had roof problems. Picture is circa 2014

when they were dull, and the teeth became too narrow, which would cause binding. The cure for this was to *swage* them, meaning that a tool is used to widen the teeth and then they needed to be filed again, before use, because they are not straight across after the swage job has been done. One item at a time, Homer overcame the problems and was successful, despite doubt from other sawmill operators in the area. Homer used to say one of the other sawmill "old-timers", Mac Keller, had told him, "You can't make lumber with that mill!"

One of the local stores, Auburn City Hardware, was where Homer got a lot of the small items that he needed for assembling the mill. The hardware was located on the south side of 8th Street., west of Main Street. Their motto was, "We have it.", and that was accurate. They were what hardware stores were before the big box stores came in. I went there many times with my father, to pick up construction, electrical, plumbing, and many other hardware items. They also carried a full line of kitchen items, and toys like tricycles and wagons. There had been a hardware store on that site since 1850, sadly it closed in 2016.

The Doyle Lumber scale is another item that I need to talk about. This scale was the standard in this part of the country. It was used to calculate the number of board-feet of lumber that can be produced from a given size of log. The main use is to determine how much lumber is in a tract of timber and then to estimate a fair price for that timber. Measurement is always taken at the small end of the log. The scale was available either in folding rule type or a paper sliding form. The ruler had all the amounts of footage printed on it. It covered log lengths from 10"-18". A board-foot is a size of 1" thick and 12" square. A log that is 16" in diameter and 12' long can be expected to produce 130 board-feet of lumber.

On September 13th, 1948, Homer purchased his first chainsaw from Sears-Roebuck and Co. It was a beast of a saw, weighing in at about 34 pounds. With the 30" bar, it was well balanced. The aluminum frame wrapped around and looked like a box with rounded corners. It was also possible to use it as a 2 man saw by adding a handle to the end of the bar. Homer used the saw often and over time the outside aluminum frame began to disappear, as it wore down. Homer did add pieces of steel to replace the sections that were necessary to support the saw when it was placed on the ground. It cost $430.00, and he paid for it in monthly installments. The original chain teeth were built like chisels and used a flat file to sharpen. Later, the chains were made with teeth that required a round ¼" file. I still have the saw, but it is literally in parts, a *basket case*.

Around the same time, Homer purchased a new welder from Sears. It was a 250 Amp unit, and the heats were changed by moving the cable to a new tapered opening in the front of the welder. In addition to his own work, he began to do small jobs for several of the other farmers in the area. He bought some short. replaceable metal tips to weld on worn plow points, and used a hard surface metal, "Studite", to harden the edges of the plow shares.

On January 2nd, the registration for a 2-wheel trailer is noted as being homemade, and the new plate was purchased. I don't remember this trailer, but I know it would have been used to haul firewood.

Homer used a buzz saw to cut wood smaller than 7" in diameter to length. Its frame was made out of a section of old windmill frame. The table used to push the wood through the saw was hinged at the bottom, and it was staked to the ground. The belt pulley on the tractor was used to power the saw, with a 4" flat belt.

In early January he bought 265 feet of logs to make lumber from. The notebook he used for recording his firewood sales states that he had 32 customers and they purchased 116 cords of wood in 1949. Most of these firewood customers lived within 2-7 miles from the mill. I remember being with him in 1949 when he delivered wood worms to a little bait shop at 601 East 7th Street in Auburn. These worms were in

Maple and Basswood trees near the ground where there was rot in the wood. He would split the wood to retrieve the worms. The worms look very much like wax worms.

On February 7th, he purchased a Ford model A engine to replace the engine in his 1928 Ford AA truck, for $25.00. This was his current log hauling truck.

In May, electrical wire was purchased to wire the sawmill building for lights and outlets. About the same time, he purchased a large grinding wheel for the Dunlap grinder. The wheel was 1" thick and 10" diameter. The original swage he had for the mill saw had been lost or misplaced, because he bought a new one in June.

He hauled tree trunks from the former Widney Orchard that was located at the S.E. Corner of County. Road. 55 and 59, north of Street. Joe, IN. Most of it was sawed into lumber, and the parts that were not usable for lumber would be made into firewood. Apple is very good firewood. November of 1949 is the first recorded sale of lumber made on the mill. Homer sawed two pieces of 2"x8"x12' and seven 4"x4"x7' fence posts for a neighbor at 6 cents per board-foot.

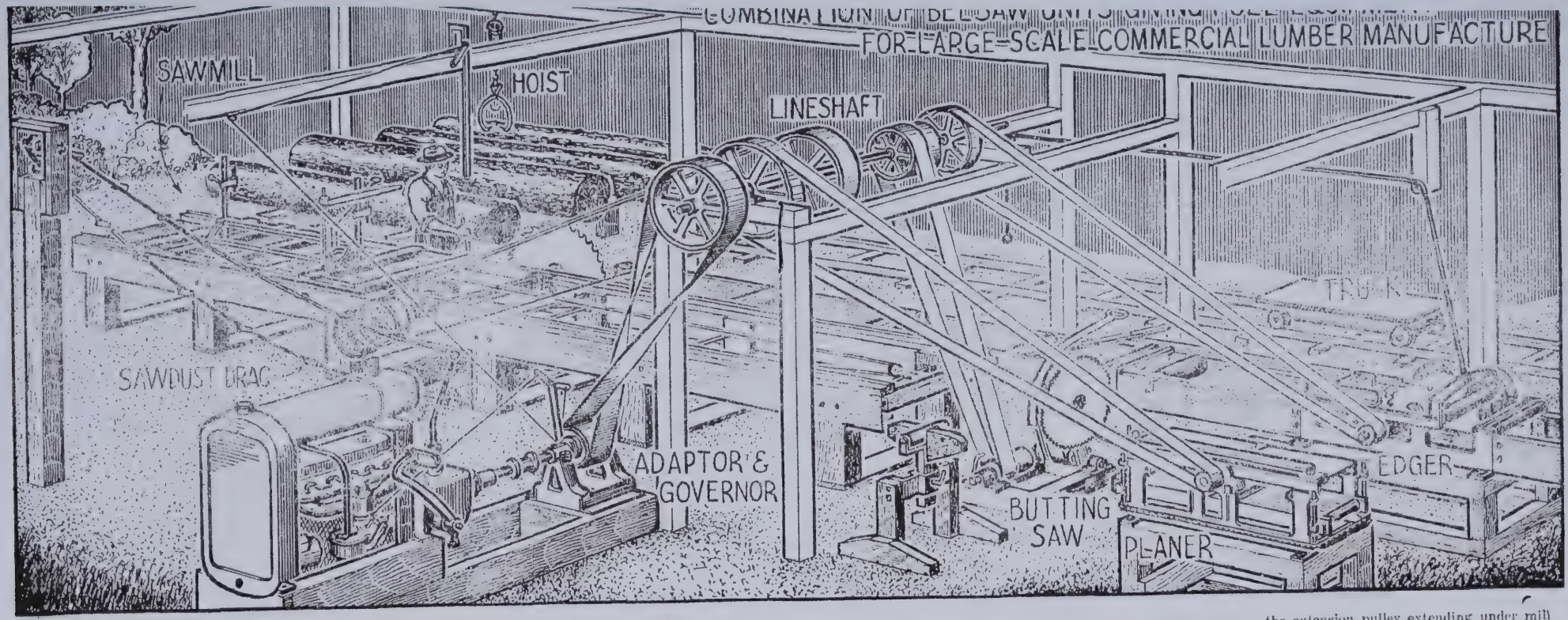
During the last week of 1949, Homer made a verbal agreement to purchase a truck from an acquaintance that lived in Butler, IN. The man was working for the Auburn Street Department at the time. Homer had been using the 1928 Ford, that was on its last legs. On January 2nd, he purchased the truck. It was a 1942 Ford cab over engine, or stub nose, with a sleeper cab area. The truck had been built for the military and its' bed was 12' long with 12" high steel sides. There were stake pockets, to mount the supports for covering the bed with canvas, and a hinged tail gate. The cab had been painted red and the bed was still military green. The engine was a flathead V8 and used an up-draft carburetor. The front windshield was two pieces or split and could be tilted out at the bottom and opened about 6". The tires were dual in the rear and were 7.00x20" size. The brakes were air powered and at that time the air was used in reverse of how they work now. The air was used to set the brakes and the brakes had springs to keep them un-set.

According to Homer's farming notes, he bought a brand new 7' disc from Culbertson Hardware Company, for $184.00, on August 21st.

The starter on the family car, a 1938 Pontiac, needed a new set of bearings and brushes, which cost $5.70.

Sometime around September of 1950, Homer purchased a Farmall I.H.C. 10-20 tractor with all steel wheels, and it needed spark plugs. He bought Champion brand plugs designated by their type, No 1. This tractor was nearly worn out when he bought it and I am sure he did not pay much for it. He used it to power the mill for a short time and it made the other tractor available to do other things for a while. I barely remember this tractor, but one thing that stands out in my mind is that it had steel wheels while everything else I had ever seen had rubber tires. Later that month, he had to get another set of plugs for it, which means that it was using oil heavily and it was fouling the spark plugs. A short time later he went to the junk yard and picked up a different distributor cap, because it was miss firing. It was not too long after that, when he cut it up for scrap metal and took it to the junk yard. It was worth more to him in cash than all the expense it was costing.

The 1942 Ford truck engine needed an overhaul. The bearings, valves, valve seats, valve seals, and rings all needed to be replaced, in addition to a new muffler and exhaust pipe. He also bought 5 gallons of parts cleaner. The work was done at the Auburn Motor Sales location at Cedar and 9th Street. At the time, this dealership had recently been purchased by Russell Morton. When this work was done, the speedometer read 17,089, which meant it really had 117,000 miles because then the odometer only went to 100,000 and then cycled through again starting at zero. On December 2nd, Homer bought a new 7.00-20-10 ply tire for this truck for $59.00.




The line shafting is how we powered the last mill and edger, with the Hercules.

The BELSAW "unit system" provides the pro acquiring equipment that is the most practical becau

For those wishing to save money on material carriage and mandrel units. If they wish to use adaptor that gives highest governed speed power efficiency.

This applies also to those who wish to get started in the sawmill business with the least possible initial expense.

Thus equipped they can produce perfectly sawed dimension lumber. The saving on the cost of the lumber usually returns the full cost of the equipment in a surprisingly short time, thereafter effecting tremendous savings in lumber cost.

And in the case of those starting business, enabling them to accumulate capital for the purchase of further equipment and for expansion of operations.

For those proposing to operate on a comprehensive scale it provides every needed machine, accessory, and supply.

The BELSAW line is complete; it provides for making practically every product for which the average lumber yard has any considerable demand. Lumber, shingles, siding, lath, flooring, millwork; some lumber yards are depending on their own BELSAW equipment for all these—and others.

The unit system enables those with limited capital to start out with the first mentioned equipment, and to acquire the latter without the need of replacing any low cost equipment with higher priced; they need only add to it.

Could there be any simpler and safer method of building up a profitable business? The BELSAW unit system brings boundless opportunity to those who are enterprising—whether or not they possess capital.

The above sketch shows the major equipment of a complete sawmill and woodworking plant, with its suggested arrangement.

Note that the overhead lineshaft method is shown for transmission of power to the various machines. This is the approved method when there are numerous machines. An alternate method is as follows:

the extension pulley extending under mill d between Edger and Planer for these two rives more clear working space.

rack; this is for turning extra large logs r and lower cuts—much the same as on a sawmill having top saw. An alternate method much used is to place a small turntable on middle log rack beam, chucking the log up on chips on this support for turning.

By this means a small saw may be made to do the work of a large one; if the bulk of the timber is within the capacity of a small saw it would be wasteful to use a large one just because an occasional log is large; the larger a saw the more power it consumes and the more timber it wastes in excessive width saw kerf.

The head sawyer stands as indicated, where he can keep his eye on the saw and his hand on the feed control; the rod hanging above him is rigged up for operating the idling device on governor, so speed of saw may be cut down when it finishes the cut—saving fuel and wear on motor. If weight of rod tends to bring elbow lever down extend lever past pivot and give it a counterweight.

The tail sawyer is located back of the saw, where he takes the sawed slabs and boards. With the butting saw he squares ragged board ends before starting edger. The slabs he usually saws into stovewood lengths. Note overhead rope with which he raises dead roll on edger over feed roll behind saws. The tail edgerman works with the tail sawyer, and loads edged boards on truck—to go to distant lumber pile.

When production is high the edger is usually powered by separate motor and placed far enough back of butting saw to permit squaring both butts of the boards. In such cases the edger usually has two men.

The planer, shown in right foreground, takes the board at right end. An auxiliary roller support is shown back of planer, for supporting overhanging portion level with planer bed. After starting next board in planer section (lower bed), the operator goes to outfeed end and runs the board back on edge over jointer section (top tables); this is repeated for S4S surfacing, and the board finally leaves at same end at which it started, from whence it is carried to pile.

Customers purchasing multi-unit outfit are supplied blueprint showing most efficient arrangement with all pulley sizes, belt lengths, etc.

By the end of 1950, the sawmill had been used often, and Homer really enjoyed being able to make his own lumber. At the beginning, he had installed a blower to take the sawdust away from the sawmill. That was not working very well. He had added a sawdust drag to carry away the sawdust from the mill, which was much easier than shoveling it.

Homer had been making a lot of firewood for his customers, and the truck would serve as a more reliable vehicle. He had over 20 customers for wood at the time. Most of them were 7-10 miles from the farm. He really wanted a flatbed truck with more bed length. With some measuring and planning, he used his cutting torch to remove the sleeper section of the cab and saved the section with the back window and the mounts on it and using the torch with the welding head he re-attached it to the main portion of the cab. He then removed the original bed and made a flatbed that was now 15' long.

Log hauling at that time was accomplished by using the tractor to roll the logs up planks. The method required the use of a large area, because there needed to be space on both sides of the truck. One side needed space to lay out a chain in a V shape, by hooking one end of the chain near the front and rear of the truck and the chain being long enough to lay out a V to center in the middle of the side of the truck. The log was rolled over the small end of the V, then a single chain was attached at the point of the V, and it went over the load so it could be used to roll the log up the plank and onto the truck, from the other side. This was rather time consuming, but it worked. At the time, the planks were 3" thick, 12" wide and 12' long. These were also the planks that he loaded the tractor on the truck with. I never saw him unload the tractor, but I did see him load it at the farm. The bank in front of the barn was a little higher than it is now, and it was about level with the truck bed, making it easier to load.

During this time, he was adding an addition onto the mill building. The new section was to the east of the original building and was 22' wide and 25' long. This section had buried posts, which made it sturdier. The roof line had a higher pitch and it put a roof over the tractor that was running the mill. The north side was open, and the main beam was over 20' long. It was sawed on the mill and was 8"x8" in diameter. That beam survived but sagged. In 2010, I determined that the sag was about 12", and decided to try to salvage it by slowly raising it until it was back where it needed to be. The weight of the roof line above it helped to bring it back into place, and it was re-supported again.

I have a copy of the 1950, first quarter, "Belsaw Bulletin", that was published by the Belsaw Machinery Co., to give their equipment owners information, help with problems, as well as receive comments from owners. Some of the comments are very encouraging, others show the adaptations that have been made. There are pictures, as well. This copy will be included for your enjoyment.

The registration for the 1942 Ford is included as well. The cost of basic telephone service for a party line was $2.59 per month. A letter could be sent for three cents and an unsealed letter for two cents. A post card cost one cent. Electric service was around $6.00 a month.

The Sears chainsaw required a new bar and sprocket. The bar was $34.10, and the sprocket was $4.65. The 1941 Ford one-ton truck was towed for repairs and the towing charge was $3.50. He also left a chain at Sears to be sharpened, and the charge was $4.50.

On June 3rd of 1950, Homer purchased several truckloads of logs, from Garry Souder. The check was made for $100.00. Homer picked up the chain he had left for sharpening at Sears. In August he bought 29 feet of 4" flat belting at the Auburn City Hardware. The sawmill feed used this type of belt, and so did the buzz saw. I don't know which it was used for. It also could have been stock for future use.

## 1951

Besides working on the family's farm and operating the sawmill, Homer did several other things to earn a living. The last week of 1950, he started working at the Auburn Clutch Co., which was eventually bought by Dana. I had known that he worked there but did not know how long. According to the pay stubs I found, he worked there until April 28th, 1951. He was a floor sweeper, making $1.32 per hour. I believe he really enjoyed the work, but I remember a comment he made once that there were times when he felt he should help by doing some other jobs. One night, after he had been there a while, he saw a light bulb was out and knew where they were stored, so he replaced it. This got him called on the carpet because the union had electricians whose job it was to do that. The last full week that he worked there, there was a notation on the pay stub that $1.50 had been taken out for union dues. I don't know that this had anything to do with him leaving the job, as it was dirt farming season again.

Early in January, the car we were using, a 1938 Pontiac, had to be towed in for front suspension repair. The linkage supporting one of the front axle spindles broke. The bill to tow the car two miles was $3.00, and the replacement of a used spindle assembly was $30.00 with labor. It should be noted that the car had 93,642 miles on it at this time.

The Sears chainsaw he was using needed a new chain and sprocket late in the month. This indicates that it was being used hard and often, probably making firewood and cutting down logs. The chain and sprocket were $29.60.

A bill for a new cutting torch head and tip is noted in late January as well for $17.89. Early in February, there is a note that some parts were needed for the chain saw. A chain guard and other parts indicate that something had done damage to the saw, maybe a tree branch or some other hard object had broken some of the case works.

Sometime in late February or early March Homer and G'Nell tapped some Maple trees to collect sap, to boil down for Maple syrup. They had been making syrup since 1948, and I think this is the first year I actually remember it. I would have been 5 years old. They used a round cast iron kettle to boil the sap over an open fire in the woods. The syrup was pretty dark because they did not have a closed system as syrup makers have now, but I remember it tasting very good.

Late February also brought a new farm tractor in our family. A 1930 Farmall International Regular on steel wheels. This is just before the F-20 tractors came out. It was considered a 20 HP tractor and had a belt pulley and power take off. This was a big improvement not only for farming, but also for powering the sawmill. Homer went to the junk yard and got a set of 24" rims and cut off the spokes of the steel wheels and welded in the "new" rims. He probably got the tires at the yard as well, because the junk yards at that time had lots of old used farm equipment with tires on them. I do not remember the steel wheels on the tractor, but Homer talked about it later. The purchase price was $260 for the tractor. I do not know what the other parts cost. Even after I got old enough to help in the fields, he would not let me use the Regular because it had an open steering gear, meaning that the half moon and the small gear were open and had no cover box. If you were using the tractor in the field and hit a hard clod the steering wheel would whip suddenly. This could break your fingers or hand if they were in the way.

1951 was different than other years, as Homer was working 2nd Shift, and had some daylight time to work on projects for himself. One of the things I remember from this is being outside playing and hearing him singing any one of several hymns. "Higher Ground", "Love Lifted Me" and "Blessed Assurance" were some of his favorites.

I believe it was in the spring of 1951 that the 1941 truck was scrapped and Homer used the frame to make a trailer. One of the stories that Homer told me concerned this trailer. It was positioned upside down as he welded on it. At some point he needed to turn it over and he started to pick it up, but it was too heavy to

do it himself and he did not want to start over. As he stood there he saw a board on the floor that was the right length to support the trailer in that position, so he used his foot to get under the board and then standing on one foot he got a hold of the board and placed it as support for the partially raised trailer. His comment was that it was quite heavy and he "didn't want to let go". The trailer was about 7x8 feet when finished. I finally found it in the weeds out back in the early 2000's and cut it up for scrap.

Homer went to many auctions in his adult life, purchasing items that would be useful to him. He would also buy the 25 and 50 cent lots no one else wanted. On March 24th, 1951, he went to an auction, and one item that is mentioned is a section of steel cable. The total bill for that auction was $27.05. and the cable was $9.00.

About this time, he welded a loader for the F-14 tractor. I do not know exactly how it operated, but I remember it winding up cable like a winch and that it was used often to handle logs and move manure.

Most of Homer's skills and ability to build things appear to have been natural, God-given talent. He always had a project in his mind that he was working on, and he was very good at using the resources available to him to solve problems and create tools to make his life easier.

In April he purchased a pair of Knapp high-top work shoes for $10. The salesman was an independent contractor who worked from home as a second income.

In early May he purchased logs from one of the local farmers for $80. About the same time two more cars were cut up for scrap, a 1942 Chrysler Crown Imperial Business Coupe and a 1936 Ford. The Ford had the misfortune of having the bolts that held the flywheel on come loose and damage the threads. Someone had tried to repair it themselves and re-bored the holes slightly off center. This caused the starter to lock up when trying to start the engine. Homer did try to adjust it without success, and it went to scrap. I have one of the script side decal name tags for the Chrysler. I do kind of wish I had one or the other of the cars today.

Homer got a welding job for the city of Auburn late May to make a new welded part for the street department. He was paid $25.00. The person that recommended him for the job was the street department worker that he had purchased the 1942 Ford truck from.

In 1951, we were still using kerosene to cook with, and the cost was 10 cents per gallon. I did not know at that time that most people were using some other form of fuel for cooking.

The month of July gave way to hay making season and Homer spent most of the month working for an Auburn farmer named John Walter. Homer's mechanical skills were required for Mr. Walter's hay baler, a New Holland model. The baler was one of the early small square bale machines, and it had a very large *bull gear* drive. The engine was a Wisconsin, air cooled unit. Almost every year John would call Homer to have him work on the device that knotted the twine. It would not work correctly. I believe the problem was mostly rust related from sitting over the winter. However, sometimes it would happen after only a couple of days. Homer also helped bale because John only had one other person who helped him farm, a man with the last name of Bergman, I believe. They usually did the hay making over a period of 2 weeks, based on when the weather was right.

Toward the end of the month, Homer worked on the barn roof for John. This barn was a 40'x80' *bank barn,* with a basement and a sloping driveway up to the main floor. The barn was built with hand-hewn beams and pegged mortise and tenon joints. The center of the main floor was open to the full height of the building. This was so the hay could be put in the barn in loose form with hay-slings. The sides each way, from the center drive were floored about 8' above the main floor. The main floor was 3" thick planks, and

the hay lofts were 2" thick with 8x8" beams spaced 4' apart. This barn was located at the present site of 102 Clark Street, at 7th Street., Auburn Indiana.

Sometime in the late summer, I was at the Browand barber shop at 601 East 9th Street. for a haircut. I was not yet 6 years old and was told, "Wait here until I come and get you." by my father. Mr. Browand tried to get me to stay, but I had other ideas. After my hair was cut, I waited, and I waited some more (remember how long it seemed when we were young?). In my mind he should have returned. So, against the barber's wishes I left and headed for my grandmother's house at 1215 South Center Street. She had gone with my father and was not home. My next thought was "I am going home". I left there and went back up to the corner of 19th Street and Center Street and went down Brick Road. Homer found me a mile later at the curve on 46-A. I was given a lecture, and we went home. Lesson learned. I now know that the total distance for me to have gotten home is 5.3 miles.

On August 15th, 1951, we made a trip to Apple Creek, Ohio, riding in a 1942, 1 ½-ton flatbed Ford. It was a cab-over-engine model. We went to pick up the Oak dining room table, that is at Melissa and David's now and, the buffet that is at Mike and Connie's now. On the way there, at Crestline, Ohio, Homer found a 10-hole grain drill for sale for $10.00. He paid the man for it, saying, "I will be back and pick it up when we come back through". We arrived safely at my great grandmother's former home. My great grandmother, Mellie Swanger, had passed away, and my grandmother had been living there but had recently moved and was downsizing furniture. The house was on Milborn Road, south of the original route of U.S. 30, about 2 miles north of Apple Creek, Ohio. The furniture was loaded, and if I remember correctly, we stayed overnight at the house. The trip home was uneventful until we reached Bucyrus, and there was a very angled railroad crossing in the town. I'm not sure what happened, but I remember being stopped at the crossing with the cross bar sitting on the cab of the truck. The train was really close. My father never talked about it, and I never asked him about it.

I do not have any notes for a while but, in mid-to-late December, my father came in on a Sunday morning and said, "We won't be taking the car to church this morning, the engine froze and broke last night". We drove the stub-nosed truck when we went places as a family for a while.

**1952**

On January 11th, Homer purchased a used 1942 Chevrolet, that had belonged to a friend that was living in Hicksville, Ohio at the time. It was our local vehicle for a while. We only used it if we had to travel within 10 miles of home. I do not know anything about the condition or how many miles it had, but if we were going any distance we took the 1942 Ford 1-1/2-ton truck.

The last day of February was the deadline for purchasing license plates, and this year it fell on the 29th., leap year day. This was common for my father to wait until the last day to get the plates. There was usually a long line, as many others also waited. The only reason I know about this particular year is that the truck plate was purchased that day, and it was dated on the registration. The truck plate was $20, and I expect that the car plate was picked up the same day. "Don't spend until you have to", was the thought.

I have very fond memories of visiting our relatives on Sunday afternoons. My mother had cousins, aunts and uncles living in a 10-mile radius of our home, and my grandmother Abel lived at the southern edge of Auburn. There were very few children in any of the families, so I usually played with toys by myself. I would occasionally listen to the adults' conversations. Some would talk about their aches and pains, while others complained about how the days dragged for them (probably because they did not have hobbies to occupy them), or that their bodies were just worn out. As a six-year-old they all seemed very old to me.

Word of mouth was spreading around the area that Homer was sawing lumber, and he started getting more orders in. He sawed loading planks for one of our neighbors and some fence boards for another,

according to the paperwork that I have. In April, he sawed some planks for himself, to load the F-14 tractor on the truck. There was a small rise along the road near the barn that was about 26" high, that he could back the truck up to. The planks were 3" thick and 12-14" wide, and 10' long. They would have been quite heavy, but Homer always handled them with ease.

Something that should be mentioned is that turning logs on this sawmill had to be done carefully because the carriage wheels were only 2" in diameter and ran on a ¼" high track. Sometimes something as simple as loading a log on the carriage would cause the carriage to jump off the track. When turning a log after one side had been flatted, he would place the log deck plank in place as if to load another log, but then place a 12" section of 4x6" on the plank with the 6" side up and use a cant hook to turn the log down against the 4x6". Then, he would use a steel pry bar to cause the log to lay on the carriage on the flat cut side. It was imperative to make sure that the bar was locked in on top of the carriage front steel frame to keep it from jumping off the track.

John Robbins was the Owner-Operator of a Standard Oil gas station on the NE corner of State Road 8 and County Road 35. This was a common place for my father to purchase gasoline. At that time, it was a full-service station. In addition to pumping gas, they would check engine oil, wash your windshield, check brake fluid, and radiator level. They also had some of the most common auto parts, like fan belts, wiper blades, spark plugs and contact points.

Although business was growing, the sawmill was not a big part of Homer's income yet. A substantial part of his work came from farming and small repair work with the welder and the torch. When someone asked him how much they owed for a small repair job, he had a habit of saying, "oh, a dollar or whatever you think." By this time, he was quite talented with the welder and in the spring and summer he was doing a repair for someone about once every two weeks.

On June 6th, he purchased an Allis-Chalmers combine, to harvest his wheat. This was an older model 60, or a 60" header. It had the elevator in a rectangular case to move the crop to the bin. It was picked up at Brindle Brothers, in Laotto, IN for $266.

In mid-July he had 3 cubic yards of ready-mix concrete delivered. I think it was to be used for a section of basement floor, in preparation for a wood and coal furnace. This was delivered in a 6-yard rear discharge mixer, from Yoder Concrete Mix Co. It cost $12 per cubic yard, and the billing arrived in the mail 4 days later signed by Everett Yoder. The company was operating from Noah Yoder's home at 215 S. Division Street. The plant was at South Union Street.

In the summer of 1952, Homer got a copy of a U.S. Government published booklet, written by C. J. Tellford, titled "Small Sawmill Operators Manual." It was 8-1/2" x 11" and about 70 pages. I am sure that it gave him some valuable insight into the sawmill operation.

On October 8th, there was a big change for the Abel house. He installed a wood and coal furnace in the basement. This was a recycled unit that came from someone he knew that was changing to another form of heat. It replaced the wood burning stove that had been in the dining room.

It was about this time that he constructed a buzz saw that mounted on the front of the Regular tractor. This made it a lot easier to cut wood for the furnace. He could then cut the wood to pole-length with the chainsaw, then use the buzz saw to cut it to its final length. Because the tractor was mobile, it was a large improvement.

This was the first Fall that Homer had a silo constructed and made corn silage. The silo was located just east of the barn, where the large rock is now. The rock was enclosed inside the silo at the time. The silo

was constructed of straw bales, stacked about 10-12 feet tall and lined with Sisalkraft, a paper, which had a black tar-like film on one side. As the silo filled, more bales were added. The final height was probably about 18' or 20' high. The farmer that cut the silage was John Mason. He lived east of Street. Road 1, on County Road 64, which was quite a journey. The bill was about $50.

The sawmill building needed roof repair, and there was a bill for one 55-pound roll of granulated roofing, and 5 gallons of fiber roof coating. This roof was very flat, probably 2 ½' x 12' pitch. It needed work on a regular basis, as I remember being on the roof helping with the repairs by the time I was 9 or 10 years old.

Standard Iron and Metal was a junk yard in Auburn and operated at the west side of the south end of Grandstaff Drive, at that time. Homer had purchased a section of steel shafting there on November 11th, 1952. This was one of two scrap yards in Auburn, and he used both to pick up steel for projects.

On November 17th, there was a notation that my parents stopped at Clark Treesh's home to purchase some Watkins products from him. He operated his business out of his home. To my family and friends, this would be known as George and Frances Abel's home, which they bought in 1971. I remember being there the day my parents bought the Watkins products from Mr. Treesh.

Homer was asked to blast some stumps for a man north of Concord, on County Road 51, that fall. He had been using dynamite for this purpose for several years. I never knew anything about his stash of dynamite or blasting caps and fuses, until I was in my teens.

During the Fall of 1952, he divided off the upstairs of the house he had grown up in to make an apartment. His mother needed some extra income, and this was one way to accomplish that. He built a set of steps along the rear of the house. He sawed three runners to make the rails for the stairs. They were 2" x 10" x 20' and there were 4 posts required to support the upper end and the small canopy at the top. I think this was probably the longest lumber he had sawed up to this point.

I believe that he had been shoveling sawdust away from the saw blade up to this time. In late 1952, Homer built a sawdust drag to make sawdust removal easier and more efficient. He installed a post 10-15' away from the building and put a sprocket and an electric motor at the top end of the post about 10-12' above ground level and used open link chain to function like a conveyor belt that would collect sawdust from under the blade and drag it away from the building and deposit it into a safe location.

**1953**

February 10th is the first recorded information I have for 1953. Homer purchased a handheld tachometer, for $10, to use to check the speed of the sawmill shaft. I believe this was because he was now using the Regular tractor as the power unit for the sawmill. I suspect it was running at a different speed than the F-14 tractor had ran, and Homer needed to track and regulate it.

At 7 years old, I spent much of my time playing outside. My parents were selling their cow milk at Wayne Co-op in Fort Wayne at that time. The Milk hauler was Elmer Dammeyer, (last name pronounced with a long "A"), and I marveled that he could swing those 10-gallon cans into the truck. Back then, Fort Wayne ended at the triangle point where Coldwater Road and Clinton Street split, and the Co-op was just before this junction.

Homer purchased some welding rods at the Gamble Store in Auburn. He only paid $1.30, so he did not get a large quantity. Just enough needed to finish a job.

Homer and G'Nell began using a checking account in the fall of 1951, and G'Nell started writing and signing checks at this time.

In April, Homer purchased a used two-bottom plow from Culbertson Hardware for $25. I believe this was necessary because the original plow he had been using had been a horse-drawn plow that had been converted. It had likely worn out.

Late June brought a couple of custom sawing jobs to the sawmill. The order was for gate boards for farmers. The material was 1" x 5" x 10' material. The most common lengths of gate lumber were 8' and 10'.

This was the last year that the railroads ran steam engines on the Baltimore and Ohio RR, (now the CSX system). I remember hearing the steam whistles, and when a train stopped on the siding set of rails and restarted, sometimes the engineer would open the throttle a little too much. The result was the sound of the wheels spinning on the rails, and they would stop the motion and start all over again.

Around this time Homer moved a corn crib from the farm where he grew up to their farm. The corn crib was 3 ½' wide x 12' long x about 10' high and he transported it on its side on a hay wagon. This made it a 10' wide load going down the road. After it was put in place, he sawed lumber to build onto it to make it 10' longer. It all had a lean-to type of roof and worked very well for the crop of ear corn.

During the summer of 1953, Homer and G'Nell began using the Production Credit Association of Albion to finance their farming operation. Up until then their financing-had been through the local bank.

August came, and it was time to get my school clothes and new shoes. Two pairs of pants and three t-shirts were $10.94 at the Penney's store. The shoes and over-the-foot boots were $5.36. A hair cut was $1.00.

We did not have a deep freezer yet, so we had our meat butchered and stored at the Auburn Locker Service on S. Cedar Street in Auburn. This was south of the Holben Auto sales and Garage at that time.

Around August 11th, Homer got sick and went to the Doctor. It was determined that he had a kidney that was infected and would need to be removed. It had been giving him terrible back pain and physical sickness. On October 26th, he entered Souder Hospital in Auburn and Dr. Karol from Fort Wayne did the surgery. It was successful and he spent 11 days in the hospital. He was off work until December 14th, and then on limited duty from the 14th until January 1st,1954. The surgeon's bill was $275.00.

A check stub from December 1st says Homer paid Mike Schoudel $5.60 for lumber he sawed for him. Schoudel's sawmill was just east of the intersection of County Road 29 and County Road 68. This was while Homer was off work recovering and someone needed some lumber. Homer would later purchase this sawmill in 1969.

**1954**

The New Year begins with Homer's release to go back to work full time, without restrictions. The effects of the kidney removal still lingered to some extent. He commented that he felt that everything was "sloshing around" inside his lower back area, after the surgery. It didn't slow him down for very long though, because he felt like he had a lot of catching up to do. He was now the healthiest he had been for several years.

The truck's license plate for 1954 was different than other years. It was the same length as it had been but was only 1 ½" wide and was bolted across the top of the previous year's plate. It had a red background and white letters and numbers. The plate was pressed with raised numbers, just like all the others. There

must have been a shortage of steel that year due to the US involvement in the Korean War, which had just ended a few months prior.

Homer made a 4' extension for the sawmill carriage. His only purchase was from Belsaw; all other necessary pieces could be picked up at the junk yard or he already had them on hand. The three pieces he bought were a gear that advanced the head blocks forward and back, the wheels and the *dog*, a piece that would be set to hold the log in place. He used a section of 4" channel iron to make the flat plate that the gear would engage with. He used the oxygen-acetylene torch to cut the openings for the gear to mesh in, spaced about 5/8" apart and 1" long. They were approximately 3/8" wide and it still amazes me how much control he had with the torch. The gear and the cuts in the steel matched so well that it looked like it had been factory made.-Homer now had a carriage that was 16' long, which made it much easier and safer to saw longer logs. The longest logs that were ever sawed with this mill were 24' long, which was hard but not impossible. The log extended 4' beyond the carriage on each end and you had to feed the log into the saw slowly, so it would not chatter or bounce.

At the same time, he reenforced the original bunk bars. They had originally been pressed flat steel that had been bent in a U shape, much like the channel iron shape, but they were not as strong. He was able to add a section of ¾" square bar stock inside of each of the original sections, doubling their strength and support. This was necessary because the mill was being used much harder than it was built for, and they were beginning to bend down from the wear of constant use. This was one of the reasons that Mac Keller, the older sawmill man had said to him, "You can't make lumber with that mill!"

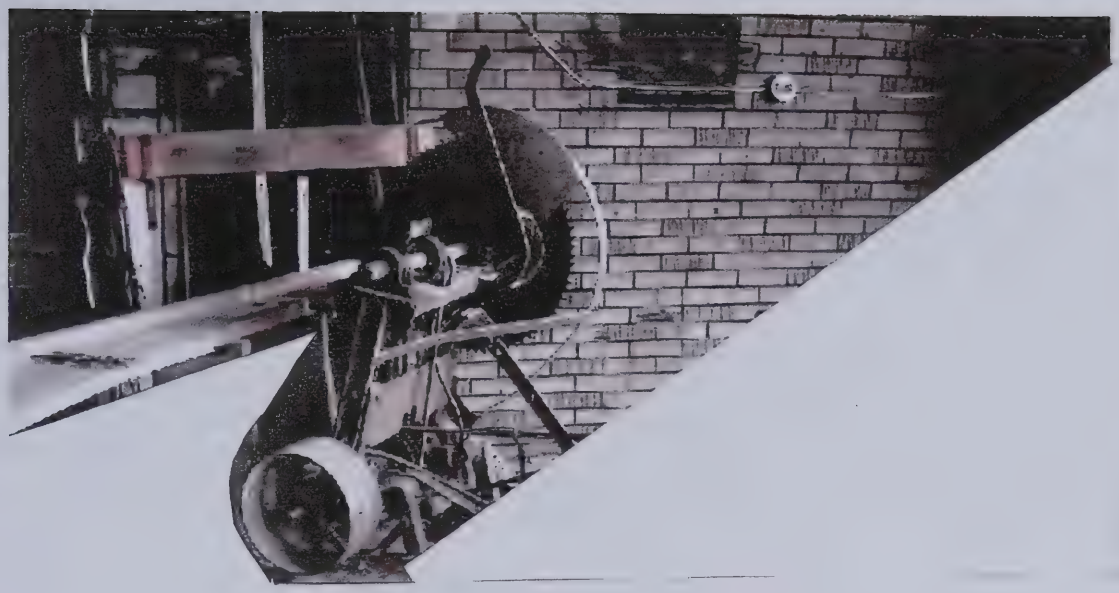
During the second week of February of my 2nd grade year, I came down with the Chicken Pox, followed immediately by the Mumps, then the Measles. The three ran for about seven weeks altogether. Fortunately, I had a good teacher, who helped me catch up with the rest of the class. Her name was Gladys Impton, and she had taught my mother's 2nd grade class when she was in school.

Up to this time, the farm fences had used a battery powered charger. Homer purchased their first plug-in electric charger for $29.50, which did a much better job.

March was a good time to pick up another truck, a 1947 Chevrolet COE box truck that had been a Hertz rental. It had been out of the rental system for a while and had other owners, but it would serve us quite well for several years. It was still painted Hertz black and yellow. The truck had a six-cylinder engine and was a 1 ½ ton, with a 12' bed.

Dutch Elm Disease is a fungal pathogen that is spread by Elm bark beetles and causes a widespread death of infected North American Elm trees. In 1954, Homer had been sawing some of the Elm tree logs that had been dying from the Dutch Elm Disease. They were available everywhere, in all sizes from firewood to more than 5' in diameter. This was the only time he cut trees for lumber in his own woods. The Elm was a tough, twisty wood that had long been used for chair seats and large wooden sledges, called mauls, that were typically used to drive wooden stakes for homes and circus tents.

The increased size and volume of logs he cut during this time caused him to design and build a metal framework to support a *top saw* rig for the mill. This required a supporting framework to hold the shaft and the blade that had recently been removed from the main mill shaft. It was mounted further from the main blade and slightly overlapped the cut area of the blade. This permitted the sawing of much larger logs. Some of the supporting structure was mounted on the roof line of the building and another piece was a railroad tie set on a stone buried in the ground and tied into the building support posts. The metal was then mounted on that, and the shaft came from a sawmill that a neighbor had purchased and never used. That mill was identical to his original mill except the nameplate said Sears rather than Belsaw, as they were making these units for Sears at the Belsaw company. It took some time to get it aligned correctly,



Original mill cut-off saw, and two views of the Belsaw mill.

but the result was the ability to saw up to 36" diameter logs on the little Belsaw mill. The worst misalignment I ever saw was about 3/8", between the two saws. Some of the larger first-cut slabs on the large logs were 7-9" thick and were laid aside until the rest of the log was sawed into lumber, then they were cut into lumber too.

The 1942 Ford was retired in June and the frame was transformed into a wagon to haul logs on. The wagon was stripped down to single rear wheels instead of dual. The front acquired a tongue and a hitch pin. It was always used with a ¾" bolt of about 10" in length and I don't think it ever came out while being pulled, even though it never had a safety cross pin. Later I remember using a #10 piece of wire to secure the pins. I think the neat thing was that he mounted a transmission and attached it to the power take-off of the tractor to load logs with a cable and a couple of planks. The bed of the wagon was 6-1/2' wide and 12' long.

When the Ford was put to rest, the air compressor from the air brakes system was salvaged and became our portable air compressor, run by an electric motor. The cart for the compressor was a wooden frame with cast iron wheels mounted. It was built like a child's wagon with a steering handle. Pumping up the pressure for the air compressor was slow, but it beat using a hand pump to fill a tire, which had been the norm up to this time.

Homer purchased another chainsaw from a friend that he had known since childhood. I think he was getting too old to lug it around. He sold it to Homer for $125. It was another Sears, very much like the chainsaw Homer already owned, but I believe it was a little newer.

Homer purchased insert saw teeth for the new sawmill blade from several different middle-man supply houses. Three of the early businesses he bought teeth from were Mossman-Yarnelle Co. at 230 Pearl Street. in Fort Wayne, National Mill Supply Co, off Lima Road, north of Ley Road, and Sutton-Garten Co. at 5001 Industrial Road in Fort Wayne, I believe National Mill Supply was at another location in the early 1950's. The earliest bill I found for saw teeth noted that they were $10.06 for a box of 100 teeth on September 21st, 1954. For those who know saw milling, the teeth were designated as style 3, 8–9-gauge thickness and 9/32" wide. We could and did sometimes use 17/64" thickness teeth, especially if the others were not available, which occasionally did happen.

The teeth we used were all mild steel, meaning they could be sharpened with a file. The files used, were double cut, meaning that the hardened grooves of the file were cut in two directions, giving a better cut. The files were 10" long and approximately 1" wide, giving an area of about 8" of usable file surface. There were 3 major manufacturers of saw teeth: Simonds, Atkins, and The Hoe Co. The teeth needed to be filed regularly for a clean cut. If the saw was being used constantly, as often as every two hours. It only took about 10 minutes to file the teeth, and if the logs were clean and the teeth were taken care of, a set of 26 teeth could last through several days of sawing, before needing to be replaced. The teeth were held in place by a circular, C-shaped piece of spring steel, called a shank. The tool that was used to switch out the teeth was a hardened steel U-shaped slider pin that inserted into a hole bored into the shank to remove it from the saw plate. It had a 16" cast iron handle. The tooth and shank had matching concave grooves that fit in the V-shaped convex grooves of the saw plate. Changing a set of 26 teeth could take as little as 12 minutes with enough practice.

At the time homer purchased the 2nd Sears chain saw, he had noticed a large jointer, there as well. A jointer is used to smooth and remove curves and flatten uneven wood pieces in the wood working process. The unit had a 16" width and a square head for mounting the knives. This type of machine had been outlawed in manufacturing companies for some time but was still being used by some small one-man operations. The reason was it had a safety issue. Because of the square head to hold the knives, you could

slip and cut off ¾" of your fingers every time a knife passed, and there were no guards on it. All the newer models come with a round head and the blades are 1/8" and are covered with a safety guard. He bought it in the early part of 1954, and he used it to make more corn crib siding because he had added on to the earlier 12' corn crib he had brought from the farm he grew up on near Auburn. The siding was sawed on the mill, into 1x4s and then he used the jointer to bevel the 2 narrow sides of the 1x4" boards, making them rhombus shaped. When mounted properly, they would allow water to run off and yet let air pass through.

Homer was still farming, and he had determined it was time to buy a corn picker. For years, there had been an auction of farm equipment operated by Yoder and Frey Co. in Archbold, Ohio, and they had an Oliver 2-row pull-type corn picker for sale. He purchased it for $275.00, and had it delivered to the farm. I do not remember if it was the first year or later, but there was a very wet fall and when it finally froze enough to pick corn it snowed several inches and he picked corn with snow on the ground.

In the early summer of 1954, Homer determined he needed to add length to the barn. The addition was to be 28' long and 24' wide. It would have a gambrel roof, meaning that the roof would be two different slopes with the lower one being steeper, it is sometimes called a "hip roof", or a "barn roof". The original barn had a gable roof. Homer was still making loose hay, and the addition to the barn meant that he could raise the roof and make more room for hay and straw.

The sawmill's recent improvements allowed him to saw all the lumber for the barn addition himself. Most of the lumber used was Elm because there was so much available at the time due to the Dutch Elm Disease. He also used Oak lumber as needed. The longest 2x10" planks sawed were 18' and those were used for the headers at the doorways. All the rafters were 2x6" material, and the sheathing was all random width ¾" thick material, ranging from 6" to 12" wide, and various lengths. The rafters were set on 2' centers, and the main side walls were 14' high. The timbers for the hay loft floor were, 6x6" or 6x8" in size, and 12' long. From what I can figure out, he sawed the lumber and built the addition mostly on his own, although I did find a few notes that indicated that there was a little help that he paid for. This construction required a 36' long extension ladder, which was purchased at the Auburn City Hardware for less than $45.00.

The addition was finished in the Fall of 1954 and was open at the roof line over winter, between the two different roof pitches on the front side and the north end both had new #2 Pine siding that was purchased at the lumber yard. The upper tier of lumber to cover the new end of the barn was the used lumber that had been removed from the end of the original barn. It had been painted red and was installed with the red on the inside. He had picked up some barn hay car track of the same type that was in the original barn, (probably at auction) and installed it, so it was ready when the other roof was raised.

John Mason came again and cut silage corn for Homer. The silo was in the same location as before and the charge was $50.

The gas and service station at State Road 8 and County Road 35 was bought out on October 4th, 1954, and Stanley Thomas was the new operator. I found his hand-span impressive that he could pick up a 1-gallon round can of antifreeze from the top and carry it.

I remember marveling at my father's energy and ability during ~~at~~ this time of his life, but I later realized that his kidney problem had been hindering him for some time before his surgery.

I went to the dentist on N Cedar Street, in the second building just north of 7th Street. The tooth needed a filling and Dr. Duncan did the job for $5.20. He was a young doctor at that time. He passed away in 2014.

Early in November, there was a new building on our property. A small trailer house arrived at the farm, and it housed the man and his wife that Homer had purchased the 1942 Chevrolet from. They had been living in Williams Center, Ohio, and needed a place to move to. The 8x27' house was placed just south of the grapevines, in the southeast section of the main yard. At that time there was a large Pear tree 15' south of the grape vines. The tree provided shade in the summer. The man worked as a hired laborer for my father at the sawmill for a time. He was a good worker, despite being much older and was the only person I personally knew that thought the earth was flat and could not be convinced otherwise. In 1956, he and his wife grew concerned that the old pear tree would fall on their home, so Homer installed a cable between the two trunks. They ultimately decided to purchase a lot in Cecil, Ohio and hired someone to move their trailer. I finally removed the tree in 1999 when it started showing some rot at the root line.

One of the early places I went with my father was to a house on South Center Street, in Auburn. One day in mid-November, Homer stopped to buy a chain hoist (or chain fall as it is sometimes called). It was a 1-ton chain and pulley set. While some hoists have a separate chain to pull to move the hoist, this type used the chain that was in the pulleys to move it. He paid $15.00 for it, and it has been used often ~~a lot~~ over the years, in fact I still use it to this day.

I have some things to share from The Evening Star newspaper, the earlier version of the present day "The Star" newspaper from November 30th, 1954. Winston Churchill celebrated his 80th Birthday. The present-day television station WISE, 15, CBS station was in its infancy in 1954, and was known as WIN-T. The tower for the station was 850' tall and just south of County Road 52 on County Road 29. The studio was in Waterloo at that time. Later everything was moved to Fort Wayne. The local listings were in the paper, and there was a lot of news, weather, sports, and entertaining programming. Channel 33 also had listings, but 21 was not yet operating.

Other items of interest were the advertisement for the 1955 Ford cars. You could purchase a new one for $1643.47 plus tax. They had 16 body styles and many other add-on items were available for purchase.

Culbertson Hardware also had an ad in the paper. The game "Monopoly" was listed for $3.00, and all steel roller skates were $3.59. This store was located where the Cupbearer is now, on 7th Street, north of the Courthouse.

At that time, the "locals" in the paper, including help wanted ads were listed in the order that they came into the paper office. There was no sorting or separation. You might have a legal notice next to an item for sale and next to that might be a small note that someone was taken to the hospital.

**1955**

The last payment of $50 was made on the hospital bill from the kidney surgery Homer had in October of 1953.

On January 25, Homer purchased some chain links from Koeneman Farm Equipment at 1815 S. Wayne Street in Auburn. I suspect he wasn't done with the Fall crop yet and he needed the links for the gathering chains on the corn picker. Koeneman sold several different brands, including Oliver.

The Utility bills included Electric at $10 a month, and Telephone at $7.31 with no long-distance calls. The mailbox was just inside the end of the road about 30' from the house. Postage for a letter was still 3 cents and packages could be sent to Orrville, Ohio, for 25-40 cents for a package that probably weighed 2 pounds and was wrapped with brown paper and tied with string. The packages would usually take 2 days to make the trip.

Homer must have been doing quite a bit of welding because he purchased 50 pounds of welding rods on February 24th for $7.25, and they came from Sutton-Garten Co. located at 1701 S. Harrison Street, Fort Wayne.

Another thing that I found among his paperwork was three different kinds of small stamps, which were an early form of store and brand loyalty programs. You received the stamps when purchases were made and licked and glued them in small books. When several books were filled you turned them in and received a product of your choosing from a list of items. Nowadays, stores use loyalty cards with barcodes. My parents never participated, but my aunt usually got the stamps. The stamps I found were for Top Value, Sperry & Huchinson, and M&M.

As soon as the weather permitted, Homer was back to working on raising the original barn roof to match the new section, with the gambrel roof.

About this time, he purchased a resaw machine that was made to cut 2x4's or larger material and make them into 1x4 lumber. The tool had two sets of vertical rollers with a saw blade centered between them, and a flat pulley on the shaft that connected the flat belt to a tractor or other power unit. Beyond the shaft, there was gearing to make it feed the lumber through it. I think this was purchased at auction. There will be a picture of it later.

Homer purchased 10 rolls of 45-pound granular roll roofing and nails to re-roof the original mill building. This is the first time I remember being on the roof as it was being replaced. Each roll of roofing came with a can of tar, about the size of a small fruit can, that was used to seal the joints. It was punctured to let the liquid out in a small stream. Also purchased at this time were two 100-pound wood kegs of nails; one was full of 8d nails and the other of 16d small spikes.

After he finished the barn roof, Homer built a loader and slings on the wagon to move loose hay, which was stored on the hay loft in the barn. The slings would raise up the hay car onto a track in the ridge of the barn roof using rope and pulleys. They had four wood bars about 6' long that connected in the center with a latch that could be released by a rope. There was one large rope to pull it to the proper location of the hay loft, and another rope to return it to the unloading drive-through area, after the hay had been released. It was a lot of work but was easier than any other method of moving the hay.

Homer purchased a 15" adjustable crescent wrench for $6.29 and a clamp wrench, which functions like a vise grip, for $2.29 from Sears in Fort Wayne.

Homer was asked if he would have any use for an 80' light pole that had been struck by lightning before it had electric wires on it. This pole was about 16" in diameter at the base. It was part of the line that ran from the South County Line to Auburn when it was first installed. He was interested and able to go get the pole. I do not know who knew about it and told him. He went and cut it into lengths he could haul and brought it to the sawmill. It was at this time that he had decided to build a tramp shed on the back of the barn. Some of the pole became posts for the shed, by cutting some of the sections into quarters and using them for the building. Other posts were railroad ties, on the low side of the roof.

Sections of that pole became part of at least two other buildings on the property. Some of the other material for the framing of the shed came from a barn that was being torn down on a neighbors' farm about a mile and a half west of the sawmill. There was siding that was used for the sheathing, and roofing that was turned upside down and reused on the new building. It was the type that has continuous ripples, so it did not matter which side was up. The shed was 30' wide and went the full length of the barn. There was an intermediate support beam about 12' from the eave of the shed that was from the torn down barn and at the time it was supported by three posts and was three separate sections. The siding was made up

of Cottonwood and Soft maple that was sawed at the sawmill at random widths ranging from 8" to 16" wide. Both types of wood do well if they can dry out after being wet, so they were a good choice of material for the shed. The two kegs of nails and spikes that were purchased a short time earlier were mainly used for this project.

There was a notation that I got a new pair of shoes and two T-shirts for $4.95. They were probably bought at the Boston store on the east side of N. Main St just south of 6th Street. We shopped there a lot at this time.

On July 19th, Homer went to Sears in Fort Wayne to pick up the new steel eaves trough he had ordered to install on the house. We had been getting seepage into the basement and the eaves trough helped direct water away from the house. He bought 170' of trough and the assorted fittings for $50.36 and installed it over the next few weeks.

During wheat harvest time Homer did some rental farm work on the farm that now houses the fire station at State Road 8 and County Road 35. He combined the wheat there and got a share of the profit. He used the Allis-Chalmers 5' combine he had purchased earlier and the Regular tractor to harvest the wheat. The farm wagons he used to haul the crops had 16" sideboards and would be known today as hay wagons for small bales of hay.

In early August he bought a box of 100 saw teeth for $11.10. The price varied by the supply house he bought them from. Homer got a job to split 2x4s into 1x4s for a local farmer. He used the resaw to split 90 pieces for $7.00.

On September 16th, he sawed 467 board-feet of lumber for a farmer for $7.00. He purchased more Sisalkraft paper for another silo for $28.00 and the filling job was $55.00 to chop and fill.

The driveway to the log yard was getting muddy so a load of 14 tons of limestone was ordered for $66.44 and was spread from the north side of the barn shed to the west, which is where the granary is now. Later, when the sawmill grew larger, this drive would be covered by sawdust.

My mother had a Stanley Products home party in October. Their product line was primarily home care items such as cleaning products for the kitchen and bathroom. The company is still around today.

Homer had a beef butchered at the Auburn Locker on South Cedar Street, north of 8th Street, on the west side. The butcher bill was $13.60 and then the meat was put in several locked drawers in their freezer room or Locker. Then rental was paid each month for as long as it was needed.

Bill Goings

The sawmill was in use for custom sawing just before Thanksgiving. One farmer ordered 24-2x4x8', 24-2x6x18', and 12-2x8x18' sawed for a charge of $12.72. The same farmer put in another custom order on the 5th Of December for 11-2x8x15', 12-2x5x16', 20-2x4x12', 14-2x5x15', and was charged $12.30. This material was for a lean-to shed addition to his barn. The logs would have come from the customer's woods. This farmer had purchased a Sears model Belsaw sawmill, but he never set it up to operate, and eventually my father bought it for spare parts, because except for the nameplate, the parts were identical.

In early December, Homer purchased some coal to heat the house with because he had not had time to cut enough wood ahead for the season. I believe there were several other things that he would have needed the coal for that winter as well. It cost $11.55 per ton at that time.

On December 30th, there is a bill for two kinds of belt dressing. Pullmore and Cling Surface. The first is a liquid type, the second a solid stick. Both materials would help keep a belt from slipping when under a

heavy load. Occasionally these belts would break and need to be repaired or replaced. Homer was very resourceful and would often replace machine parts with pieces he found at auction or from other machines on the farm. The belt he was using at the time was left over from the grain separator he used to thresh wheat and oats and was only 6" wide so it didn't have enough surface area on the pulleys to keep it from slipping. All the belting he used during that time was flat belt, rather than V-belt. When a belt needed to be repaired he used Alligator Belt Lacing to splice two sections of belting together. Alligator Belt Lacing is a strip of V-shaped pressed steel with vise-like teeth that bite into the material and are hammered in place to evenly distribute the tension across the width of the belt. The two pieces of belt lacing would then be joined together with a pair of rods.

The gross income from custom sawing and other sawmill related work for others was $98.22 for the year. This was not a lot, but it did show up on the tax forms for the first time. His gross income for 1955 was $4000.00. A lot of this came from his farming and some was custom welding and fabrication for local farmers.

**1956**

The year starts with Homer making firewood for customers in Auburn and sawing some dimension lumber for a neighborhood farmer to build a shed on his barn.

At the end of January, Homer picked up the wallpaper that had been ordered for the dining room in our house. It cost $4.42 and was a pattern of vines with red flowers. My mother made the paper paste and rolled it on the back and Homer hung and brushed it to flatten and seal it on the wall.

Homer sawed an order for a local farmer that included gate lumber in an assortment of 1"x5" and l"x6" that were 8' and 14' long. He sawed a total of 866 board-feet from the farmer's logs for $13.00.

Auburn Junk and Paper was located on South Wayne Street, where OmniSource is now. Homer needed some tires and was able to get two used tires for $8.00.

There were two auctions that he went to in early 1956 and he typically bid on boxes and items no one else wanted, but he also purchased items that he knew he could use. Most of the time the bids for unwanted items were 25 or 50 cents. Between the two auctions he spent $12.00 and $16.75.

Another custom sawing order came in for framing for an addition to a barn or the strengthening of a hay loft floor. This order required timber, or uncut wood, as well as a special request for 2"x13"x8' lumber, in addition to some 2"x8" material. The 2"x13" was an odd request because structural lumber is usually cut on even inches typically ranging from 2" to as much as 14", but this was specifically needed to fit an existing space.

During the summer of 1956, I attended Lake James Christian Assembly. The camp fee was $10.00 for one week. The camp usually had about 200 campers, and I was in a dorm that had bunk beds and was next to a large building that had formerly been a dance hall, before the camp acquired it. I remember the camp being lots of fun and having sound spiritual teaching. One of my favorite memories was being able to go to the little camp store and get Pokagon Orange Sodapop. It had the best flavor and was bottled in Angola, Indiana. We northern Indiana people always called it *pop*.

Homer often came up with his own innovative solutions to problems he had. That summer he grew tired of stirring paint with a wooden stir stick, and he fashioned for himself an electric drill-powered paint-stirring tool. He made the tool out of a piece of 1/4" steel rod that was about 6" longer than is required to reach the bottom of a 1-gallon paint can. He bent it about 2 1/2" from one end to a 45-degree angle and then about 1-1/2" above that bend, he made a 90-degree bend so that the long portion of the rod is

centered with the angled portion to keep the vibration to a minimum when stirring. The 2 ½" segment was perpendicular to the rod so it easily scraped the bottom of the paint can and mixed all the paint.

One day, my father and I were traveling on south, on Van Buren Street, which at the time was where U.S. 27 came through town, when we passed a car pulling a small trailer stopped along the side of the road just beyond the intersection with 4th Street. My father slowed down because he noticed that the trailer's wooden tongue was broken, likely because it was too weak to handle the shock of going over the dip and hump that is built into every street corner. So, we went back, and he questioned the man about the problem and found out he was from out of town and didn't know what he was going to do about the breakdown. My father offered to get him a new tongue, and the man agreed, since he wasn't going anywhere. An hour later Homer returned and replaced the trailer tongue for the man and wouldn't take any money for it.

Once again, Homer was hired for a welding job to put new plow points on someone's 2-bottom plow. Then he welded the hard surfacing on the edge of the plow share to keep it from wearing out. All the farmers that were farming less than 80 acres still had 2-bottom plows, while the larger farms were using 3 or 4-bottom plows. Most of the small farmers were also working a factory job or had some other source of supplemental income at the time.

Many of the farmers that hired Homer to saw their lumber would help with off-bearing or stacking the boards as they came off the sawmill. From time to time, Homer also had a little hired help from some other men who were less fortunate and needed a little work. He had a discerning type of care for people and often tried to help in whatever way he could.

Since Homer did not have an edger at this time, all the larger boards and live-edge lumber (boards that did not have the bark-edge cut off) needed to pass through the sawmill again to square the edges, cut to desired width, and remove the live edge.

There were three farmers in the area that had balers and Homer purchased hay from them when they had extra available. One of the farmers also baled the hay we grew. Two of the farmers were close by and had elevators to get the hay in their barns. Growing up, I did not do much to help with the farm and I never did help milk the cows, because my father thought the cows were too unruly for me to be involved. However, I did mow an area of the yard that was probably about 50'x100' with a push-reel mower that I had used for two to three years before we got our first rotary mower that summer. When I was young I thought mowing grass was fun. I didn't know at the time that 30% of all the work I did as an adult would be mowing and trimming. I still enjoy it.

There was a Watkins Products store that opened at the northeast corner of South Center Street and 19th Street, and we sometimes bought their products. The small building still stands there today.

That summer, my family went to visit relatives in Ohio. My aunt and uncle had a television and I remember watching the news when President Dwight D. Eisenhower made the announcement that they would be building an Interstate Highway system. He said that it would span the whole country and there would be 41,000 miles of new roadways built. I do not remember any other details of the announcement.

One day, I was at the A&P grocery store with my mother while my father did other errands. I remember noticing price changes of common items we purchased. One of these items was a 25-pound bag of sugar. The price was $3.25, and I knew that the price had been $2.38 for the same bag just a few weeks prior. This was my first encounter with inflation.

When comparing the dates on the receipt slips, I now know that my father had been at the Auburn City Hardware the day that I was at the grocery with my mother. He purchased dynamite, blasting caps and fuses for $3.29. I believe this was the last time he purchased these items and I do not know how he planned to use them.

A few days later, he went to Goodall Lumber Co, to pick up 50-pounds of roofing nails for $8.60. I am not sure if they were to be used at the farm or if he had purchased them to stock up for other jobs.

The last straw-bale silo was built and filled this year. I can remember thinking that the silage smelled good as it began to sour. I also thought the silo was very tall, but the tallest one was probably less than 20' high.

Homer went to Bercaw Implement Co in Butler to get a draper canvas for the Allis-Chalmers combine. The old one was worn out and he had beans to harvest for one of their neighbors who lived at the intersection of County Roads 43 and 46-A.

The regular price of a haircut was $2.00 and my father had heard there was a barber in Waterloo that was only charging $1.00, so we started going there for a while. He worked out of a private home and was probably retired from his regular job. He lived north of the bridge that goes over Cedar Creek on North Wayne Street.

Gene Wilson put in an order for framing lumber to build stalls in a barn that had recently been built on County Road 427, south of Auburn. It required a variety of 2"x8" and 2"x10" lumber of various lengths, some timbers to support a hay loft above the cattle stalls, and enough lumber to floor the loft area.

For several years we had been going to a farm on County Road 50 east of Newville, Indiana to purchase large purple plums from the Hanna family, whom my mother had known since childhood. They were $3.00 a bushel and we enjoyed them fresh or home canned.

Another small-town hardware store was sold at auction, in Helmer, Indiana on October 25th and 26th by Russell Kruse and sons.

The now 8-year-old Sears chainsaw had been getting a lot of use and was once again in need of repair. Word had spread that Homer was able to cut down yard trees and make firewood and he received many requests. It was not common for people to own chainsaws at this time, so the service became very valuable.

Another local farmer put in an order for framing lumber for a barn shed. He lived about a mile and a half away and did not have his own logs, so he bought lumber from Homer's on-hand stock. Homer sawed 660 board-feet of lumber at 7 cents per foot. Another box of 100 saw teeth was purchased around this time for $13.41.

The neighbors at the south end of the road sold at auction and moved to Auburn. Among the items for sale was a farm tractor known as *Silver King*. This 2-plow tractor was manufactured in Plymouth, Ohio. It had a single front wheel like a child's tricycle and had a road speed of just under 30 mph. This unit did not have a muffler, and when it started we could hear it from a long way off and we'd often say, "there goes Silver" as it started up. According to the note I found, my parents spent $8.50 at that sale.

In December, Homer purchased a 1950 Oldsmobile 76 coupe, which looked exactly like the Chevrolet, but it had Olds decals. It had a long, sloping back, big-6 engine, and a stick shift on the column. It cost him $245.00 for the car.

In 1956, the IRS did an audit of Homer's SSI taxes for 1954 and 1955. At the time, Homer hadn't been separating the sawmill business, the Welding & Repair business, and the farm taxes and he had to pay a penalty fee because he had not been showing enough self-employment taxes during those years. He made settlement payments to get the back taxes up to date, plus a penalty fee of $44.60 that he finished paying by January of 1957. The final check was less than $100.00. This was the only time there was any action by the IRS. The phone and electric bills were then separated for the sawmill, repair business, and private use.

By the end of 1956, Homer was becoming well known for his sawmill work. Sawed lumber and firewood income for the year was $296.20, which was almost three times more than he made the previous year, although it was still a small portion of his total income. This year he had hired Norman Gerig, Du Wayne Goings, and Dale Goings to help with the sawmill and haul logs when they were not farming their own lands. He paid a total of $138.25 in hired labor for the year.

## 1957

January through September of 1957 has a better paper trail, and I have more notes for the sawmill than in previous years. The checking account stubs show that the sawmill and the Welding & Repair business were now separately noted from the farm checks.

On January 4th, Homer sawed six stringers. This means the logs were sawed flat on two opposing sides. They were probably used to add strength or to replace some beams in a barn loft. Additionally, 128 board-feet of lumber were sawed for this order. The total charge for the order was only $6.74, because the logs had been delivered by the customer from his own woods. A few days later two other customers had lumber sawed from their logs.

On January 16th, the wallpaper that Homer and G'Nell had ordered from Sears-Robuck arrived. The wallpaper was for the living room and cost $5.49. Over the next few weeks Homer and G'Nell hung it themselves. It was still on the walls in 2008 when the house was sold.

Homer attended an auction on Saturday, January 19th, at the estate of Abe Mason at 1631 Pennsylvania Ave, in Auburn. This included household items, real estate, and a collection of his equipment from a building and moving business. Homer purchased two 5-ton and one 10-ton railroad jacks, 4" and 6" diameter rollers, and a section of a 2-wheel dolly that had a steering pole attached. The 14" diameter, turned rollers were about 16" long and had a steel sleeve inside to protect the wood from too much wear when turning on the shaft. This equipment dated back to the 1920's. Homer spent $16.75 at this auction.

Homer produced and sold 24 cords of firewood to several customers between January and March. A single cord of wood measures 128 cubic feet of stacked wood. He also made two farm lumber sales: one for gate material and fence posts and the other for framing material.

In early March, Homer got a call from the man in charge of the Abe Mason estate, asking if he was interested in some specialized items that had not sold at the auction in January. The items in question were a 26' long 4-wheeled moving wagon made from the front and rear axles of an old hard rubber-tired truck from the 1915 era. The front axle had an added hitch to pull the wagon and the rails of the wagon were 2 logs that had been flatted on one side. There was also a hard rubber-tired trailer about 10' long. Homer purchased both for $24.00. The wagon was never used after it came to the sawmill and the trailer was only used once to haul the roof of what is now the garden shed, where it sat for two or three years before there was a building to put it on.

A farmer that lived on County Rd 52, across from what is now the Bear Creek Estates development, brought some logs to be sawed into lumber, and the bill was $24.68.

That spring, we visited the couple that had lived on our property and were now settled in the small village of Cecil, Ohio. While we were there, we visited a company in town called Hart's Auto parts. They specialized in rebuilding engines for hot rods and other gasoline-powered machines. They also sold new Continental power units.

It is about this time that Homer started to make tapered fence posts. These posts were 4" square at the bottom end and 2"x4" at the top. This was accomplished by squaring a log to either 8", 12", or 16" and then placing a 2" block next to the mill post on one end of the log and making a cut. The slab was then laid aside and the block was removed before making another. After all the slabs were made, they were stacked on the mill carriage and ripped 4" at a time. The large end of the post would go in the ground, below the frost line and could not easily be pulled out. This gave the fence longevity and stability. These fence posts were made in lengths ranging from 6' to 8' long, but most of the posts he made were 6-1/2 feet long.

Once, while in Hicksville, Ohio, Homer went by the Cook's Wrecking Yard, where he noticed a manure spreader. He needed a different one for the farm, so he bargained for it and some pipe, for $9.09. This spreader needed different wheels and the bottom of the bed repaired, so Homer used his skills to make it usable. The rims from the Regular tractor had been cut off when he changed the size from 28" to 24" wheels and he adapted them to fit the spreader.

Homer purchased lumber crayons from Auburn City Hardware. They were available in red, blue, yellow, green, and black, and made by the Dixon Company. Lumber crayons were regularly used at the sawmill.

I had a childhood friend named Gary Surfus, who contracted Polio at a young age. Once, when I was visiting him the discussion came up that he needed a table that worked with his wheelchair so he could do schoolwork at home. I told my parents that I would like to make a table for him. I had been learning to use the wood lathe at this time, and my father suggested I make some sample legs for the table on the lathe. I made two sample legs, but they were too complicated, so my father made an example for me to copy. The four legs that I made next were very similar to the sample. My father helped me assemble the table and we delivered it before the new school year began. There will be a picture of my sample legs and the one my father suggested at the end of this book.

As business at the sawmill continued to progress, Homer found innovative ways to make the job easier. One of those ways was adapting old equipment to repurpose it for whatever he needed. He had recently picked up a Letz feed grinder at an auction and used it for a short time to grind animal feed before he adapted it to make a bottom hinged, swing cut-off saw for making slab boards. The bottom shaft was the part used from the grinder and the top shaft was made from a 1-5/16" Belsaw mill shaft that came from another neighbor, William (Bill) Goings. The shaft was mounted on two bearings and welded from the bottom to the top.

Bill Goings had recently sold my father his Sears mill, which was identical to the Belsaw mill he already owned. Belsaw manufactured sawmills for Sears-Roebuck Co. so the only difference between the two units was that one had Sears on the nameplate while the other had Belsaw. Bill had never set up or used the mill but had stored it inside one of his outbuildings.

Homer attended a home tool sales event, a direct-sale party plan like Tupperware or Pampered Chef. Russell and Dean Kruse had some of these parties where Homer purchased a Park toolbox and a set of Wright 10-point sockets, which would work either on square or hex-head bolts and nuts.

In late May of 1956, Homer had planted about 3 acres of corn on a plot of land along Cedar creek, behind Roselawn Cemetery. This land is now part of the Hague nature trail and park and has been for some time, but it was originally part of the farm my father grew up on. It was a decent crop, but the weather was never right to harvest it until March of 1957. He had told me that I would get any profit off the sale of the crop if I helped pick it by hand. We finished it on our second day of work. I was not yet 12 years old, and this was a big project for me. The price was $1.76 per bushel, and the proceeds were $56.75, which was put in my savings account.

The woods on our farm at 4948 County Rd. 43, have been in the Indiana Classified Forest program since 1938 and were approximately 16.7 acres around this time. There was a re-inspection of the woods to determine whether we were meeting all requirements, which included making sure the proper signage is posted, no grazing by animals, no structures are built on classified forest land and only trees larger than 14" could be harvested. The exception was the American Elm that was being devastated by the Dutch Elm disease. It could be cut for firewood or lumber if it had died. The inspection went well.

I started learning to play the baritone horn in the school band during the fall of 1957. I needed a music stand for practice at home, so my parents purchased one for $2.82 from Sears. They also decided that my mother would need to get her driver's license so she could transport me to and from band.

In October, my father took me to my first auction. It was a former welding shop in Saint Joe, IN owned by Milt Ritenour. My father purchased a grinder on a stand, welding rods, stock steel of various sizes, bolts, rivets, and some other miscellaneous items; all for $42.25.

The two Sears chainsaws my father had been using both began showing signs that they were nearing the end of their usefulness and my father sought to replace them. He purchased a Mac-35 chainsaw for $173.00 at Jack's Marine Mart in Hamilton. Although it was not as large or powerful as either of his older chainsaws, it was a welcome addition. It had a 20" bar. I still have the book for it.

At the beginning of the 1957 school year everyone was given the patch test for tuberculosis and I had a positive reaction. I was not ill, but was taken to Irene Byron hospital on Lima Road, north of Fort Wayne to be re-checked. It had been a false positive.

One day in December, Homer took his mother to a doctor's appointment in Fort Wayne. He was traveling southbound on Old State Road 427, which is now Tonkel Road, when he suddenly heard screeching from the rear tires for a few seconds before it continued down the road. The car was still running, but was considerably louder than it had been so he nursed it all the way to the appointment and back home, and then to a repair shop on U.S. Route 6. One of the connecting rod bearings had made a complete rotation in its location and come back to rest in the proper location. They ground the crankshaft and were able to repair it.

Income for the Sawmill business in 1957 was $357.10.

**1958**

January 27th, 1958, the local newspaper, *The Evening Star*, published an article that stated that the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, (NACA) urged that the USA should send the first men to the moon. The argument was that it would enforce our prestige and defense. This was printed shortly before we successfully launched our first satellite.

Homer purchased two new boxes of insert saw teeth for $13.20 per box of 100, a new belt sander made by The Belsaw Company for $75.00, and a jig that was mounted near the grinding wheel. The sander had a 1" wide belt and was first used as a sharpening tool for the cut-off saw blade. It has been continually used since it was purchased in 1958. The jig had an elbow hinge that made it more comfortable to handle the 28" saw when it was being sharpened.

Early in February, the Mac-35 chainsaw was taken to the shop to have new piston rings installed. The cost was minimal at $8.50. At the time, these saws required a mixture of one quart of oil to one gallon of gasoline. It is likely that Homer was pushing this little saw a little too hard because he was used to his bigger ones.

Harry Lee Gorrell sold Homer a 1950 Oldsmobile 98. It was a light green, two-door sedan with a 303.7 cubic inch V-8 engine and about 60,000 miles on it. He would primarily use this car as his work vehicle, as he was doing frequent handyman and re-modeling jobs at this time. The car needed a new muffler and exhaust pipe, which were purchased from Midas Muffler Co. for $24.70. He also bought two snow tires for $64.00 from Sears.

A local family lost their home to a house fire, and they needed a new place to move into as soon as possible. Several men from our church family volunteered to help with the cost and labor to rebuild. Homer headed up the project and drew up a building plan for the small 3-bedroom house. He also sawed the framing lumber. There was no local building code at the time, so the project started within a couple of weeks and was completed about 4 weeks later. I do not know where the family lived while waiting but it was arranged for them. The house was 24'x32', on a crawl space. The house still stands, and has since been added onto, for more space.

Not long after this my father built me a 4'x6' playhouse. It had about 5 ½' of head height inside, and a small 2' wide loft in one end. I enjoyed playing in it often. I can remember a couple of occasions when one of my cousins stayed over and we slept in the playhouse overnight. It was located just east of the sidewalk that went to the house, and just south of the fence.

Homer went to an auction on March 22nd, and purchased a Huber combine. The combine was manufactured in Marion, Ohio by a well-respected company. His intention was to use the Continental engine that was on the combine to power a piece of equipment for the sawmill, but upon a closer examination, he decided that it was in better condition than the one he had been using. It would cut 6 ½' wide, which was 1 ½' more than the other one. This machine was used for combining wheat and oats for the next three seasons.

A neighbor, Ray Haynes, ordered 70 fence boards, l"x5"x14', 43 tapered fence posts, 7' long, 44 gate boards, l"x5"x10', and 4 boards, 2"x10"x14'. He lived at the northwest corner of County Road 43 and 46-A. He was a dirt farmer, raised hogs and had an early 1950's Ford farm tractor. I was always awed by how close to the ground you sat on these tractors.

The tractor that was the power for the sawmill, the I.H.C. Regular, was now 28 years old and in need of repair. A new magneto cap and spark-plug wires were purchased from Dunn Bros. in Waterloo while the new spark plugs came from Shorty's on 10th St. in Auburn. It is likely that Dunn's did not have the plugs in stock, so it required another stop to get them. Homer also went to Auburn Junk and Paper at this time to get two new magnets for the magneto, one of them would be a spare. The magneto used a magnet for the spark to fire the plugs as it rotated. Sometimes the magnets would get weak and would not have a strong enough field to work, so they needed to be replaced. The lot had several old tractors that had been junked and taken apart for parts. The tractor was a 4-cylinder, and the normal firing order was 1-3-4-2 for

most 4-cylinder engines at the time. This was done to give the engine balance as it was running. Homer purchased a 5-gallon pail of gear oil, probably 90 weight or so, for use in vehicle differentials, and other gear boxes. The cost was $7.12.

Bill Goings, who lived on the southwest corner of State Rd 8 and County Rd 39, put in another order for lumber in early April. He got 14 boards at 2 ½"x10"x15', 10 boards at l"x6"x15', and 6 boards at l"x4"x15'. He brought his own logs to be sawed and Homer charged 1 ¾ cents per board-foot for sawing or $9.48 for the material.

The following Saturday there was an auction, which Homer attended. He was interested in a 5-year-old E-3 CO-OP farm tractor and was the high bidder at $500.00. With 30 HP, this tractor would be an upgrade as a power source for the sawmill and would improve efficiency. Buying used equipment almost always meant there would be some need for repair. Although the tractor was only five years old it needed the main drive gears in the drive train, the ring, and pinion gears. It was still movable but was very noisy. The CO-OP tractors were made in Canada, by Cockshut Co., and were for sale in the U.S.A. by farm cooperatives.

Harvey Rennecker, a farmer on County Rd. 47, east and slightly south of the sawmill, ordered lumber to be cut from his logs. He ordered 44 boards at l"x5"x12', 30 boards at l"x5"x8', 16 boards at 2"x4"x8', 4 posts at 3"x5"x7', 7 posts at 2"x4"x10', and 12 posts at l"x8"x16', all for $10.76.

Du Wayne Goings had just moved onto a farm on State Rd. 8 and was remodeling the inside of the barn to suit his needs. He ordered almost 2000 board feet of lumber sawed from his own logs. He had been working for Homer off and on for several years, helping with crop hauling, and in the sawmill. The note in the records says, "$33.75, to apply on Du Wayne's hauling corn for Homer".

Gene Wilson had a new dairy barn built and needed to build stalls inside. He ordered mostly 2"x8" and 2"x10" lumber at 14' and 16' long. The total was over 2000 board-feet of lumber. Homer was also hired to install it. This farm was located at the north end of what is now the Heron Lake development.

My parents and I visited some friends in Huntertown, and we were introduced to Volkswagen. They had German heritage and had purchased a Volkswagen Beetle, which I will talk more about later in the story.

In the Spring, Homer planned to help a neighbor, John ~~Smith~~ WALTER, prepare to move his bank barn because the land was being developed into housing lots and the barn was in the way. The original location was what is now Clark St. in Auburn. It was at the southeast corner of State Rd. 8, or East 7th St. and was moved more than half a mile east, to the east end of Zona Dr.

The original barn had a basement that housed the cows milking area and small pens for calves and new mothers. The main level was used for tractor and machinery storage and the third level was for hay and straw storage. The new barn would only be two levels, with no basement. There was a lot of work to do to prepare for the move. In May, Homer helped prepare the site that would house the barn by removing trees and clearing brush. He removed the stumps with dynamite, assisted with the forming and pouring of the new barn walls, and sawed the planking that was used for the sill plates and secured them on the new walls. The area would still have some trees that would allow for shade for the cattle he planned to raise there.

The building moving crew that was hired to move the barn was Harmon Brothers, out of Napoleon, OH. There were two days set up for the move, June 26-27, 1958. The route they took would have crossed old railroad and power lines at what is now Clark St. Once across, it would have been all farm field until they arrived at the new location. The truck was equipped with 4-wheel drive and had three transmissions in

line in the drive train. Winches were available to use in the pull. My father commented that when they came to the soft ground the truck was moving so slowly that the men moving the planking were in no danger of being run over.

There was no electricity in that area yet. It wasn't until November that they drove a well point down with 12 feet of pipe and installed a hand pump on it for water for the cattle. That area still has a very high water-table.

A few other things that happened that summer included a visit from my aunt, uncle and cousins from Willoughby, OH. They also brought my grandmother for a visit. Early in July, my mother, G'Nell Abel, received her driver's license. This was special to me because I had started playing with the Riverdale School band in St. Joe. We had marching band practice in the summer and now that my mother would be able to take me, my father could work on other projects. Because the school was so small, the band included sixth grade through seniors.

In late July, Homer started another project that would use a considerable amount of lumber from the sawmill. Bob Metcalf was one of our neighbors, who lived about a mile and a half west of the farm on County Rd. 50. He raised and trained beagle dogs to flush rabbits and asked Homer to help him with a large project that would turn out to be rather lengthy. Each pen would be 4' wide, 3' deep, and have a sloping roof that was 2' high in the front and 18" at the rear. They would each have a box in the back and the floor would be 1" square mesh. Over the next two years Homer would build around 50 of these pens and would help Bob with several other projects. Homer charged $35 for each pen.

That month he purchased a 1950 Oldsmobile 98 that would be his work vehicle for the next two years.

I had been a member of the Boy Scouts of America since September of 1957. The troop was sponsored by the Disciples of Christ Church, which at the time was located at the corner of 13th St. and Jackson St. in Auburn. The Library Genealogy Center is there now. Our troop number was 174 and we started out with about 15 boys. One of the things our troop did to raise money for programs was to have paper drives. The boys would go door to door to ask if the residents had any paper products to donate to the Boy Scouts. One Saturday in July of 1958, my father supplied his truck to pick up the paper after it had been put out along the street for us. Back then you could go door-to-door without worrying about whether you could trust your neighbors. Once all the paper was collected and the truck was full, it was delivered to Auburn Junk and Paper, who would recycle and resell it.

One of the byproducts of working a sawmill is the production of sawdust. Luckily, it has several uses, including bedding for animals, soaking up spills, or even as compost in the garden (Never use walnut sawdust for horse bedding though, as it will give them stiff and sore knees). If you get sawdust moist it makes an effective dust control, and one of my parent's acquaintances even sifted out larger particles and bark and used it as insulation in the walls of a new house that was being built in Auburn. Remember, this was before there were any building codes in DeKalb County.

On average, Homer spent about $45.00 a month on gasoline for the mill, The CO-OP tractor had some repairs done to the ring and pinion gears, costing him $110.07. Homer replaced the parts himself. Vehicle and equipment repairs were constant and if he had the mechanical skills and tools to do it, Homer did as many repairs as he could himself. Homer also did some work on the Oldsmobile he had purchased earlier that summer. It was noted in his paperwork that he repaired the starter, a u-joint, and exhaust system, and replaced the battery.

The sawmill did not get a lot of use during the summer and early fall of 1958 because of the work that he was doing with John Smith's barn project. The job required raising the barn off the walls, repouring some

Original mill sawdust pile.
Jean Swanger, circa 1966

Extra slab wood, 1973

Sawdust chain, close-up.

walls, replacing the sill plates, and sawing some new posts. However, there were still several orders from other farmers ordering lumber during this period. Bob Metcalf put in an order for 500 board-feet of lumber and Homer also repaired the trailer he used to haul the dogs.

Late in the summer of 1958, Homer began sawing lumber to frame up a septic tank behind the house and ordered ready-mixed cement to pour into it. We were about to get indoor plumbing! He removed the old wood and coal furnace so he could install a larger one and poured a concrete floor with a floor drain in the first room of the basement. All the improvements he made were possible because many of the items, like the bathtub, stool, sink, and furnace had been recycled. Homer believed that if it was still useable, it should be used.

In September, the new welder Homer had ordered came in. It cost $99.50, plus an additional $3.06 for a railroad freight charge. This new welder was completely different from his previous welder, which had been converted from an aircraft generator. It was put together by the Dunbar Manufacturing Co. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They carried a large line of equipment, including hydraulic components, tractor loaders, welding equipment, electric motors, and truck bed hoists. The welder was their newest model, the 55, and had a range of 30-300 amps. Homer's plan was to mount it on the CO-OP tractor and run it with the belt pulley with three V-belts. The belt pulley, which was called a Rockwood, was made of tightly packed and bolted layers of paper and glue. Homer ran the belt pulley on the tractor and used lathe tools to cut the three grooves into the belt so it could be used with the welder.

There was a small apple orchard on our farm, and one of the old trees was a Pewaukee, an old variety that produced apples that were as much as 4 ½" in diameter. They were tart and juicy apples that made a very good applesauce. We also went to Hanna's orchard to get some large purple plums.

The sill plates for the barn raising project were cut at the sawmill. While Homer was working on the sills, his chainsaw quit working and he had to purchase a new one. On the 10th of November, Homer purchased a McCollough Super 44-A at Jack's in Hamilton, IN for $273.00. I still have the parts book for that saw.

There is a letter from my grandmother Alta Seely, dated November 11th, that talks about the end of WWI. She commented "It does not seem possible it's been 40 years since the war ended." She goes on to explain that she and her husband had been married three weeks and were living in Detroit, MI on East Warren Ave. at the time. When the war ended there was a huge overflowing crowd of people in the streets and the police let them celebrate. She described the fireworks, whistles, horns and sirens, and all of the cheering and flag waving. At the time, it was the "war to end all wars".

There was a downturn in the economy late in 1958 and it shows in the smaller number of checks written by my parents. The sawmill grossed $1185.00 in 1958.

**1959**

1959 began with cutting and splitting firewood to sell. Homer split all the firewood with an ax. He had perfected the art of the swing and strike, as well as picking types of wood that were relatively easy to split. The best and easiest to split were straight grained and relatively free of knots, like Red Oak, Shag Bark Hickory, White Ash, White Oak, and Beech. Some of the other varieties of Oak were good too. Note that trees that were near the edge of a patch of timber or stood alone in the middle of a field would be very twisty and far more difficult to split by hand. His splitting technique was to strike squarely and work from the outside to the middle, and to flip the ax slightly to the right or the left just as the ax meets the wood. A sharp, thin edged ax works best most of the time. The splitting mauls are mainly for those people who are very muscular and younger. In my own experience splitting wood, mauls require more thrust and power but are useful in splitting some of the more difficult pieces and types of wood. It is also possible to flip the splitting maul in the same way as you would the ax.

February 1959 has to be one of the months noted for the most use of oxygen and acetylene for the torch. Homer was purchasing one tank of each every week and was using it not only for his own use, but for several other farmers in the area. He was hauling the tanks in the trunk of the 1950 Oldsmobile he had purchased, it had become his work vehicle. He also used the car for all of his carpentry tools and chain saws and fuel and oil.

He had been milking cows and selling the milk to Wayne CO-OP Milk producers in Fort Wayne. He was notified that they would stop receiving milk in 10 gallon cans soon and if he wanted to continue to milk, he would have to convert to bulk tank storage. Homer made the decision not to change over and they would sell of the cows they had and keep one or two calves to raise for beef. This changed the dynamic of what he was doing to make a living and now there would be more outside jobs doing building repairs, welding and farm repair as well as some dirt farming. There would also be more sawmill work as it was available, because he was becoming well known for his ability to saw accurate lumber.

The sawmill was quite busy during the cold months of the winter and he sawed lumber for 6 different farmers in the area during this period of time. There were requests for fire wood and general chain saw work too. He purchased logs from two farmers in the area at this time and these logs would be used to saw lumber for those who did not have logs of their own.

Put off until you have to do it, still is the way it rolls, standing in line to purchase the years license plates. One car was $11, and the other was $12.

Four farmers either needed lumber from their logs or lumber from Homers stock in March and it consisted mostly of gate boards or 2x4and 2x6 lumber 10 to 14 feet long. None of the orders were large amounts of material. Mill saw teeth are $14.82 per 100 bits, still.

Homer starts a major project that will be quite lengthy, clearing along the fence lines of a neighbors farm about a mile and ½ away, to the West on county road 50. Bob Metcalf raises Beagle dogs and also trains and shows dogs for others. He is going to have Homer clear and install fence around a large portion of his farm so the rabbits will be confined to the area and not be able to leave. He later told my father that a Beagle dog will not chase a rabbit track that is older than 15 minutes old. The process will require removing some trees by chain saw and using dynamite for stump removal. A tractor and chain was used to pull the smaller trees out by the roots. The fence was 4 feet tall and was hexagonal twisted chicken fence, that was dipped in tar and then buried in a trench made by using a 1 bottom plow to make it. The corner posts, made of railroad iron, (which were readily available at the junk yards at that time) were set in concrete. The post holes were dug 30" square and 32" deep, were also tapered wider at the bottom so they would not be moved by frost heave. There were a total of 14 corner posts installed. The fence project was finished on June the 4th.

On the days when the weather was too poor to work on the fence he was working to build dog pens for the beagle dogs to be housed in. May 11 was the first day he made any of the pens. The lumber for these was all sawed at the sawmill. The size was 4'wide by 8' long by 3' high, roof line sloping to 18" at the rear. The sides and floor of the main pen was welded 1" square wire fence material. All of the pens were to be supported by saw horses that Homer made. The cost was $35.00 each.

Vern D. Culbertson has been operating a business at the corner of County Roads 35 and 46-A for a couple years and Homer stops to purchase a new chain for his chain saw there. There was also need for repair to the chainsaw he was using. The repair cost $10.91 and because it was close by Homer would purchase all of the chain saws he used, from there, and they would do the service work too, from this time on.

There were two of the "tool parties" in January and February, and in the January party someone booked a party for the next month. This meant extra points, so Homer could get a certain amount of tools from the points for free. Homer's list from January was a claw hammer, 12' tape measure, a flat blade screwdriver, center punch, a "Park Co. metal tool box with tray, for $5.50, an electric hand saw and some hacksaw blades. The total was $58.06. The February party, he ordered, a 10" "Crescent" wrench, vice grip, water pump pliers, 18"pipe wrench and a pump oil can, for a total of $14.88.

The sawmill business is starting to grow and Homer is in the planning stage of building an addition onto the sawmill so there will be more room to store lumber and equipment. The building will be 26' wide and 62 feet long. The addition will go on the North side of the existing building. It will have a 3-1/2--12 pitch roof and will be constructed with rafters and a ridge board with a long bottom tie 2x6 running the 26' width. This amounts to a modified truss type roof line, because he also installed several brace risers in the rafters to the tie boards. Some of the 2"x6" tie boards were sawed out of Buckeye logs, and this will be discussed at a later time. The inside height was to be 12' This will make the building totally closed in on all sides for the first time. It will have double roller doors on the East and west ends, for access. This will also require a new electric service entrance to be installed, because it was presently using the house 60 amp service. All of the lumber to construct the building will be sawed at the sawmill, and most of the posts will be White Oak. The exception will be that he had acquired some used light poles for posts, and one of the long spans of the side wall will be a beam that came from the barn that was moved in 1958 in East Auburn. That beam was 12"x16" and originally was 40 feet long, it is now around 36'.

There was only one farm lumber sale noted in February. Homer was finishing up the last of the pens for the Beagle dogs, so there was some lumber sawed to manufacture them. He was still selling some fire wood and doing some custom chain saw work. The old hotel repair work was progressing too. Homer had sawed the lumber to make a second corn crib tor use at the farm and it was completed in the fall of last year, but the roof line to tie the two cribs together was not yet done. That lumber was sawed at the mill and was being stored, to use when the weather permitted.

Homer was at Auburn City Hardware and bought 2,- 1/4 grab hooks and 2,- 5/16" grab hooks, and 5 feet of 5/16 inch chain. The hooks were 25 cents each and the chain was 60 cents a foot. Also purchased were several "cold shut" chain links. The links were pre-formed to be closed by hammering the link shut and then hammering the end of the link like a rivet, mashing the end. We usually welded them after the hammering the link shut. One half of the link end was a circular eye and the other end was the bent end of the link that would go through the eye.

Bob Metcalf, has another project concerning the rabbit dogs. He requested that Homer figure the material required to manufacture a wooden dog hauling box to mount on his truck to go to dog trials with. Homer designed and built the unit for the truck, per Bob's instructions and the charge was $70.00

As the weather warms up, the farmers are coming to have logs sawed into lumber and some are getting lumber that was on hand at the mill. Dale Goings, who lived on St. Rd. 8 East of Co. Rd. 41 had 3 logs sawed and he helped with the "off bearing", as the lumber was being sawed. Off bearing required some one to move and stack the boards until they could returned to the carriage to be ripped. The sawmill did not have an edger yet to saw the lumber to finished width, independently. The edging was all done by laying it in stacked form, on the carriage and ripping it to the widths desired. The first cut of the mill edging, removed the bark and rounded edge, then if the lumber was quite wide another cut would be made of 4-6" in width. The board was then turned over with the straight edge to the head blocks, and the other bark edge was removed with the next cut. If the sawyer had planned it right the lumber would be sized for what the customer desired.

Homer was in the junk yard to sell some scrap steel he had cut up. It was common at the time to look around, to see what might be there that would be useful to him. There were 4 heavy duty saw blades and some edger knives that were brand new that had been scrapped, and Homer bought them for 10% above what they had given the person that sold them for scrap. (You have to make a profit). It was still a bargain. The cost was $9.50 and I still have some of the pieces now, and I might "need" them.

One thing I find interesting, is that one farmer brought a log in on a farm wagon and Homer sawed it that day the man paid for it and the next day he came again and had another one to be sawed, and paid for it that day. Each day was a $10.00 charge. Homer was very accomodating with his customers and was probably told the first day that there would be another log the next day.

Homer has gone to National Mill Supply to buy a Lufkin, Doyle rule for calculating the number of board feet of lumber in a log. He had probably broken the previous one, because he had one earlier in the sawmill history. He also purchased 3 pounds of Babbit metal, to use to heat and pour another bearing for some of the equipment. Babbit is a composition of lead and tin or other metals that will accommodate equipment where two metal surfaces are in constant contact and grease or oil, are used for lubrication, the example is a shaft for a saw or grinder that does not have roller or ball bearings.

Albert Yoder lived on C.R. 35 just South of the railroad and he had Homer cut trees in his woods to make lumber for a fence and posts, also a lot of gate material, plus some 2x6 and 2x8 material. It was one of the largest he had sawed up to this time, as it cost $234.85 for over 5800 board feet of lumber. I do not know who helped with the off bearing for this job, but I think some one did. It was sawed over a period of about one month.

Hubert McNamara, needed 22-2x8x18' and 55-1x4x12' lumber, and I'm sure Homer had some help from Hubert to handle the off bearing. Several of these farmers made time to help when needed.

Maurice Terry, in Garrett needed a gas tank stand for gravity to release his stored gasoline, and I believe Homer picked it up at the junk yard when he was there recently he also purchased the saw blades and edger knives. He had been working on several projects for Mr. Terry.

There were 4 other lumber customers during March and their average material cost was $20 each.

Now that the dog fence and pens are done, I'll go back to the sawmill. Homer sawed logs for Clair Pomeroy, who lived north of the sawmill about 2 miles. This job was gate lumber from his logs and they were 10' long 1x5 boards. There was another farmer who lived across from the present day Bear Creek housing development, that brought 2 wagon loads of logs to be made into lumber. He wanted 40-1x5x14', 12-1x5x12', 8-2x4x10', 6-1x8x12', for this he was billed $8.24.

April 11th. A first cousin of my mother's, Merill Wilson, ordered 1591 board feet of lumber to frame a shed to add to the barn. Homer did the measuring and figured the material needed and constructed the shed addition as well. Merill lived south of County Road 52, on County Road 27, the first place on the right. Those buildings are all gone, it is bare land now.

Two other small sawing jobs were done for other people and then Roy Sponhower, who lived on county road 39 North of county road 68, called and wanted to talk to my father about roofing support work for his silo, what it would require and how large the material would need to be. After looking the job over Homer gave him an estimate of the material needed and Roy said, go to my woods and locate the trees that will make the material, cut, haul and saw them too. The support work was 3x3" square by 10 feet long, and the other material was a variety of sizes and widths. Roy also wanted materials for a small addition to his barn and that was also cut from his woods. Roy was a salesman for Cargill Seed Co., so some of the work was in trade, because Homer needed seed corn for that season. The corn was $12 a bag at that time.

Homer had been conversing with some of the other sawmill owners in the area. They were always willing to talk "shop" with him. Grandy sawmill on Ohio road 49, south of Edgerton, Mac Keller, on road 11-A southwest of Auburn, Squires, on U.S. 6 west of Waterloo, Frick @ Brimfield on U.S.6, and others.

One of the things Homer had been talking to others that welded and did repair work was making his own Acetylene to use with the cutting torch. Acetylene is manufactured by using a chemical, Carbide in small amounts at a time and adding it to water. Acetylene is a flammable gas, that has been used for lighting streets and other forms of lighting since the early 20th. Century. Acetylene generators had been around for quite some time and Homer purchased one at this time. The top of the unit had a glass canister to load the carbide in, with a lever to open the bottom to release carbide into the water below,which would cause the Acetylene to form. There was a safety feature that stopped the process at 15 pounds per square inch. The down side was that when all of the carbide was used in the upper chamber, you had to use up the gas and then clean out the lower chamber. The lower chamber had a chalky substance in it that was the remnant of the process. I do not remember how long it took to use the carbide, but it was quite a while. The Carbide came in 50 pound metal containers, that could be kept air tight. The process did work well and Homer used the generator for several years.

Homer had been doing some brick and concrete block work for himself and others over the last several years and was asked if he would build a planter for someone in Auburn in the front of their house. The planter would be made of cut,mixed size sand stone blocks and was to be about 7' long. It was located on North Jackson street in Auburn. I remember him talking about this and that he had never done anything like it before. He was successful in building it, and it looked nice. I wish I had a picture of it, but it is long gone now.

June is typical farming time and there was only 2 or 3 farmers who received lumber from the sawmill in that period. Homer was working on projects during this time including purchase of timber from some of the farmers in the area. While we are talking about timber, we will discuss some of the items that are sawed into in logs. Nails are a good start to the list, as they are used to mount steps and signs as well as supporting wires and other items. Other things struck in logs are: lag screws, other screws, electric insulators from cattle fences, items that were hung in tree crotches to store them,(horse shoes), Maple sap spiles, when sawing Sugar Maple and Soft Maple logs, woven wire cattle fence that was old enough that it had broken off was fairly common, bullets, most of them being lead and harmless, but once in a while there would be a steel jacked one. One of the worst trees we ever sawed was originally along the road at the north edge of Auburn, North of the Greenhurst Country club. It was a large white Oak, and the upper logs were fine above 30', but below that there were literally dozens of nails that originally supported signs. White Oak logs were frequently able to be checked, because the wood would be purple stained for about 3 feet either side of a nail or any other steel that was embedded in it.

Homer was ready to get the Acetylene generator going and purchased a 50 pound canister of carbide from Wayne Welding and Supply in Fort Wayne. The carbide came in various sizes or grades, and he had been told to get the 14ND, size. The last acetylene Homer had purchased, was returned, as he was now making his own acetylene gas. He also purchased 50 pounds of welding rods at this time. The paper work notes that he was doing some work for farmers, cutting off old worn points on their plow bottoms and replacing them with new ones welded in and hard surfacing them with a weld material: "Studite", which was welded to the edges of the point to slow the physical wear from use.

Logs were purchased from Milt Myers who lived on the Allen County side of Allen-DeKalb Co line just East of where I-69 runs now. The price he paid was $120.00, which at the time was quite a large amount at one time. Lumber was sawed for another shed addition to a barn for Maurice Terry, who lived just South of the Garrett Swim pool on Co. Rd. 52. Word was spreading that Homer was making lumber for sale, and that was because the man who Homer built the rabbit fence for had told him about it. Homer is able to get chain saw parts and materials from Culbertson Welding and Repair, which was located on County Roar 35, just North of 46-A, which is only 3 plus miles from the sawmill. A chainsaw chain was purchased there for $26.25, saving going to Hamilton for it.

Homer was in Auburn City Hardware to buy some 3" wide flat belting at a cost of $5.62, and Belt dressing, which would help flat belts , giving them a better grip by making it slightly sticky.

Jess Wright, a farmer called Homer and told him he had trees that he wanted him to cut and make lumber out of for projects. Jess lived on county road 27 South of the now DeKalb county Airport. I do not have info on what was cut and how much, but it was quite a large job as the charge for cutting trees and hauling and sawing the lumber was over $86.00. Another neighbor brought logs over and made a list of what he wanted to have sawed. He lived East of the sawmill, and was a natural handyman of many skills. It was quite common for the neighbors around the area would bring in logs on their farm wagon and give a list of what they wanted, the leave the wagon and we would call them when it was done and they would come to pick it up. Some one in Auburn, called and had Homer come and look at a tree that they wanted cut down, if it was possible Homer would cut the tree for them. This particular tree was in a good location and Homer did cut it, and charged $25.00.

I'll add a couple of notes about things of interest, one being that my mother received her drivers license and can now take me to band marching practice in St. Joe, Indiana, where I attended school. We also were also renting space at the public locker service at the St. Joe Locker north of town, because it is convenient for us now that we are there quite often. My family did not get a home freezer for butchered meat until after I was away from home. I had been attending Boy scout meetings for a while and I wanted to learn to swim so my parents got a membership for me to learn at the Auburn YMCA.

Walter Stoops, lived on county road 31, just south of the then B&O railroad, now CSX, and he brought logs to be sawed into lumber. It was a moderate sized order as the price was $50.80. A few days later Homer gets a call from a neighbor on county road 43 at 46-A, requesting his services repairing his house back porch and building a new set of wooden steps from rough sawed lumber from the sawmill. At that time Homer was charging $1.30 per hour for the labor , and what ever amount of lumber he used. John Smith, who Homer had done work on his barn for earlier asked Homer to saw out lumber for a barn shed at his farm at the East edge of Auburn, the Charge was $110.00 for the framing lumber.

One of my boy scout activities was to work toward a bicycling merit badge and it required riding 5 trips of 25 miles and 1 trip of 50 miles. One of the other boys in the troop was a friend of mine and his father worked in Ft. Wayne near the intersection of now road 930 and Lima road. We mapped out a route from Auburn to his father's work place. We went down County Road 35 to Leo, East across the river and South on the road East of the river, which joined St. Rd. 37, followed Route 37, then left on a road that would take us to New Haven. In New Haven we turned right on U.S. 24, Westbound, to The old bypass(now Indiana 930), around to Lima Rd. When his father got off work we put our bicycles in the trailer and were brought back to Auburn. At the time traffic was very light, as we were doing this in the middle part of the day and his father got off work at around 3:00 P.M. We usually had to wait for around ½ hour or a little more, after we arrived.

Homer was working in construction as well as the sawmill and welding and repair during this time and one of the projects was prepping a site on South Dallas St. in Auburn, for receiving a house that was being moved from another location and to re-set and be finished , ready to move into when done. Concrete footers, floor, laid up block walls, water, sewer, electric, natural gas line ready, drywall, paint, insulation,sill plates,and siding where needed plus any thing else needing finished. This job went from the end of April to mid July. Some of the lumber used for sill plates, concrete forms, and other structural repairs were sawed at the sawmill. There were days that he did not work on this project but it was pretty consistent.

About 2 weeks before school was to start, the boy scout troop had a camp out planned, to go to an old site near Allegan,Michigan. This site had an old barracks building that had been built during the Great Depression, to house one of the groups of C C C, Civilian Conservation Corps, a government program to help young men who had no jobs, but were being paid to work for the government. This particular location in Michigan, I am not sure what they built or did, but the Pokagan State Park North of Angola had a CCC Corps and they built several buildings there. We used the barracks for sleeping accommodations and did various scout related projects while there.

In the previous paragraph I talked about the boy scout camping trip and I want to expand that story as it pertains to my father's desire to help, as he was on the local counsel for the troop. He had provided the truck to pick up the paper for the paper drive and now was providing transportation for our belongings and gear to the campout. I was riding with him and we were in the vicinity of U.S. 20 in Angola when we both noticed that the truck was making engine noise. The noise was a connecting rod wearing out and as we went further it got louder. We stopped around the mile marker 356, (today')s I-69, at one of the truck stops. Homer made some phone calls and it was arranged for some one else to come with a car and trailer to pick up the gear for the troop. A week or ten days later Homer had located another used engine to install in the truck. This was also when the Hertz box body came off the truck and it had a flat bed mounted on it to haul logs and other large items.

Homer was still using the log hauling wagon he had made from the old Ford truck up to this time and pulling it with the Regular tractor locally, within 3-4 miles. When he cut and hauled logs like this he also used the Regular to "skid the logs", or drag them to the location to load on the wagon. This was sometimes very dangerous, because the tractor was configured in the drive train so that if the pull was to hard it would raise the front of the tractor. He had to be ready to release the clutch right away to control the tip up situation. His reaction time was very good , because he never upset the tractor.

Over the next month there were 5 different farmers that either brought logs to be made into lumber or had lumber sawed out of the sawmill stock. The jobs were moderate to large lots, ranging from $40-145 each for the group. There was also a welding job for $30.00 during this time. All of the jobs were repeat customers, that he had done work for before.

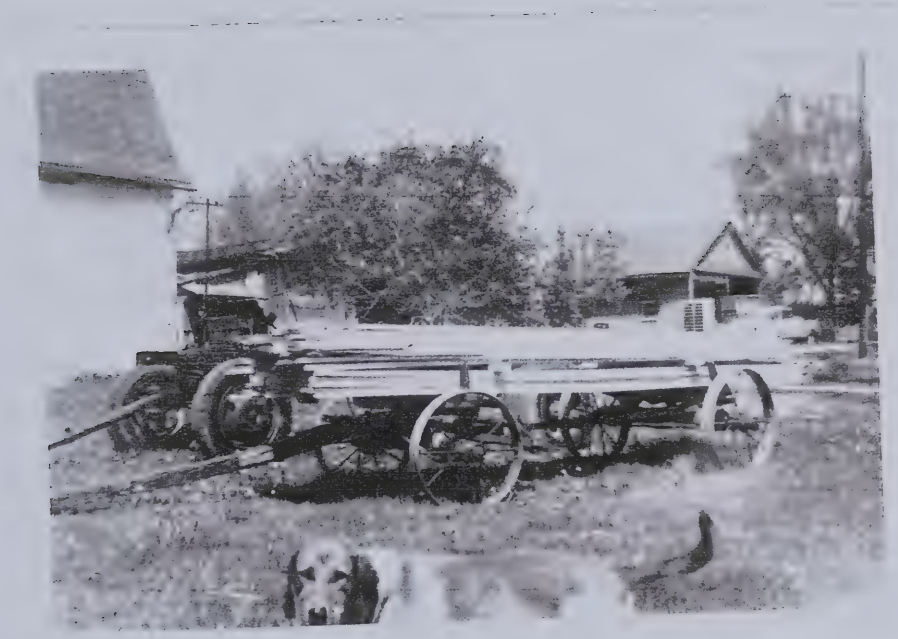
Bob Metcalf, called and he has another job for Homer, building a dog run for the Beagle dogs, that was 20' wide and 100' long, with fence and also needs to build a dog pen for one of Bob's dog customers. Homer charged $5.00 more for the dog pen as it was an outside job. He is also finishing up the final hook-up of the house he has been working on for Harry Gorrell in Auburn. He sold lumber to 6 customers for average of $20 each and several cord of fire wood was sold as we get into heating season.

The 1950 Olds family car is getting old and tired and Homer found a 1953 Plymouth, Cranbrook, 2-door Maroon and Beige on the Daily Motor sales lot, with 75,000 miles on it and the body was in decent condition, with minor rust on the rocker panels. It was also a three speed on the column, which my mother was already familiar with, so he purchased it for $275 dollars. Homer's occupation that is listed on the Insurance form for the Plymouth was, farmer, carpenter, sawmill operator. I remember washing and waxing it like it was a new car and in my mind, as a 14 year old it was. A week later the green Oldsmobile was put out to pasture in the back lot.

We are in December now and Homer is making fire wood, sawing small lumber jobs and doing some custom tree cutting for a couple of customers. His newer chain saw is working very well and he is happy with it.

Up until now Homer had frequently used a pole through his chains to twist and secure his loads of logs on the wagon, which did work but now he is using the truck and is more aware of what is needed, so he purchases 2 chain binders or as some refer to them, "boomer's) for the sound they make when they are tightened up and released.

Two wagons, rear is frame of 1942 Ford, in wagon form. The front one is left over from farming days. Lumber is 14-16' long. Circa 1959.



The 1959 year end gross income for the sawmill was $1320.00 which is an increase from other years. Fuel and oil products for the mill were $573.00, and fire wood sold was $53 for the year. Custom chain saw work brought in $317. It was a good year and looking up for next year.

1960

This year begins with the most complete set of written records up to this time. This is a period in time when you did what was required, and on January 1st.a man from North of St. Joe, Indiana knocks on the door and asks if he can purchase a wooden wagon tongue. Homer obliges and charged him $1.00 for it. The piece he needed was probably already cut in the form of a 4"x4"x7 or 8' long. Homer was always available if he was home to work at getting what the customer needed, over the years after this purchase he did business many times with this man, they had a good relationship.

Homer has been working with Von Tharp for several months on a major project and it is noted here early in the year. Mr. Tharp was well known in the area as a bulldozer operator and was also a visionary in his time, always looking for another project he thought could be profitable. The job is the renovation of an old hotel and restaurant at the corner of S. Main St. and Ensley Avenue in Auburn, just south of the Town Tavern. It was a two story building with a full basement. The project was to convert it into apartment space, one on each floor. There was a lot to accomplish, dirty work because the building had been empty for many years. There was a small enclosed balcony on the second floor that had a wonderful view both to the North as well the South. The room was an extension of the main building and was 3-1/2 feet out and about 5 feet in width. The work on that room was to secure it and make it structurally solid again. Homer solved the structural issues with timbers sawed at the mill and using them to support the section of the room. This is only one of the many structural repairs that needed to be made. The First floor original timbers that supported the floor also needed replacement and those timbers were also sawed at the sawmill. The floor timbers were 8x8 timbers and several were needed. The building went into disrepair again in the early 2000's and has been torn down.

Homer was asked to make a welding repair to a farmers tractor, I'm thinking hitch or loader repair but I really don't know what it was, the charge was $16.00. Three other farmers purchased small amounts of lumber during this time. He was not sawing much lumber but one day he went out to the fuel barrel to put fuel in a can for the sawmill tractor and found the barrel was empty. This was a 275 gallon tank and was only to be used for sawmill purposes. He had at various times in the night heard the dog bark but did not think much about it. What had happened was, that some people had discovered the tank was not locked and had been filling their tanks and cans in the middle of the night. That was stopped with the purchase of a combination lock that was installed on the tank with the hose at the top of the tank. Approximately 200 gallons of gasoline had been taken.

On February 12th. 1960 I , as part of the Boy Scouts had gone to the Lincoln Shrine, Boy Scout Pilgrimage to support the Lincoln National Life Foundation, in Ft. Wayne. They had at the time one of the largest collections of Lincoln items of anywhere in the U.S. All of the Scout troops in N.E. Indiana were invited to attend. There was a very large group of scouts that attended, I think in the mid 100's.

One of the farmers that needed lumber was the son of the woman we had purchased plums from in the fall for several years. We sawed his logs to make the material. He needed 6-1x6x14', 22-1x4x16', 28-1x6x16', 6-1x4x16', 19-2x4x16', 9-2x10x16', 13-2x10x18', as well as 14' 2x4s, and 83-1x6x12. We delivered the lumber and the charge was $68.50, with 24 dollars of it being for delivery charges.

Homer sawed lumber for Hubert McNamara, from sawmill logs, gate material ,mostly 1x5x10and 12' long. He lived South of the railroad on C.R. 39 and was a dairy farmer on an eighty acre farm. There were quite a few of the small farmers at this time and it was possible to support a family doing this at this time, but none of them got rich. Some also farmed another farm that was nearby on shares with the owner. Many of the farmers that had farmed only, also had a factory job in town now. Another one of the farmers that needed lumber at this time was Jack Buttermore who lived just North of the B&O railroad(now CSX) on C.R. 29, South of Auburn. He purchased several 2x4x12' for a small project. Homer also sawed lumber for 2 or 3 others in early January.

The snow was not deep yet and another farmer, Francis Dulle, asked Homer to cut some trees to make lumber for him, they came out of his woods. He lived on C.R.45 N.E. of the sawmill. January found the need for firewood for 2 more customers, and a surprise to me he put an ad in the newspaper looking for help, part time. The normal things, purchase of supplies, saw teeth in particular makes me think about the items that are cut into when sawing logs brought in by others to make lumber. Barbed wire was one of the items when the tree had been near a fence, electric insulators from cattle fences as well as sap spiles from Maple trees. Steel anchor bolts, nails, metal left near a tree or in a tight crotch of a tree were also common. All of these did damage to the saw teeth, thankfully the saws were the type that you could replace, (insert Teeth).

April begins with Homer starting another section of fence for Bob Metcalf, to enclose the field for rabbit retention so the Beagle dogs can track and flush out rabbits. He put an ad in the newspaper to get someone to help with the work and got a man who worked one day. That evening the man broke out with Poison Ivy. It was so serious that he was hospitalized. Homer had not thought about asking the man if Poison Ivy would be a problem, because Homer was not affected by the plant. A few days later, he hired another man and asked him if Poison Ivy affected him. The man said he would be okay. The brush and tree removal went well and was soon completed.

Mr. Metcalf had asked Homer if he was interested in painting his large barn, Homer said he would paint it. Homer purchased scrapers, a wire brush, and a quality 4" paint brush. Bob bought the best white paint that was available, at $6.00 a gallon. Homer used all of the good weather days to scrape wire brush, and paint through mid July, when he finished .

John Walter called Homer to work on the knotter on his hay baler. Homer went to do it. It was in a field. On the way to the baler, there was a large rock in the driveway which he did not see and it damaged one of the shift levers of the automatic transmission of the 1950 Oldsmobile. From then on the car shifted into high gear at about 18 miles per hour. This did not bother Homer, he just put the shift lever in 2nd, gear until he reached 30 MPH, then shifted into high gear.

Homer had sawed lumber to install a roof over his two corn cribs, with a 12' wide path and storage area between them. The lumber had been stacked and was waiting for Homer to have time to build the roof. He finally found time and got the roof finished. The area was large enough for two pieces of equipment.

There were 6 lumber customers in April, and they were all small orders of $20.00 or less. He had finished the work on the old hotel for Von Tharp and Mr. Tharp had asked him about a project he wanted to build. The project came from something Mr. Tharp had seen in California, while there over Christmas break. He had observed some trampolines that were built into the ground. They would be 6'x12' and required the frames to be made of 6"x8" timbers. The area under would be excavated, to a depth of 3'. There were to be 6 of these built, and Mr, Tharp asked Homer to build them. The location was where the present Pizza King is, in front of the building. Homer built it, but it did not prosper.

Several farmers purchased lumber during May and Homer replaced some plow points on a plow as well as working on the fence at Metcalf's. The painting job was also going well. During this time he had broken a cant hook handle while turning a log. The new handle was 4' long and cost $3.15. It was purchased a Auburn City Hardware. A new tank of oxygen and acetylene were purchased at the Smith and Moore gas station. I think the acetylene generator was too time consuming, as it required clean up after every container of Carbide was used up. Welding rods were purchased from Sears. Homer was at an auction, where he purchased 3 log chain binders,some wood frame windows, and an aluminum scoop shovel. There was also some used wood slat snow fence purchased. The auction items cost $19.00. The windows would be used in construction of some of the sawmill buildings.

Homer sawed another large order of lumber for Albert Yoder that amounted to a little over $100. Homer had cut and hauled the logs and hauled the lumber to the farmer. Hubert McNamara brought logs to be sawed and the sawing bill was $70.00, for 2x6 and 2x8 lumber 12' long as well as some fence and gate material.

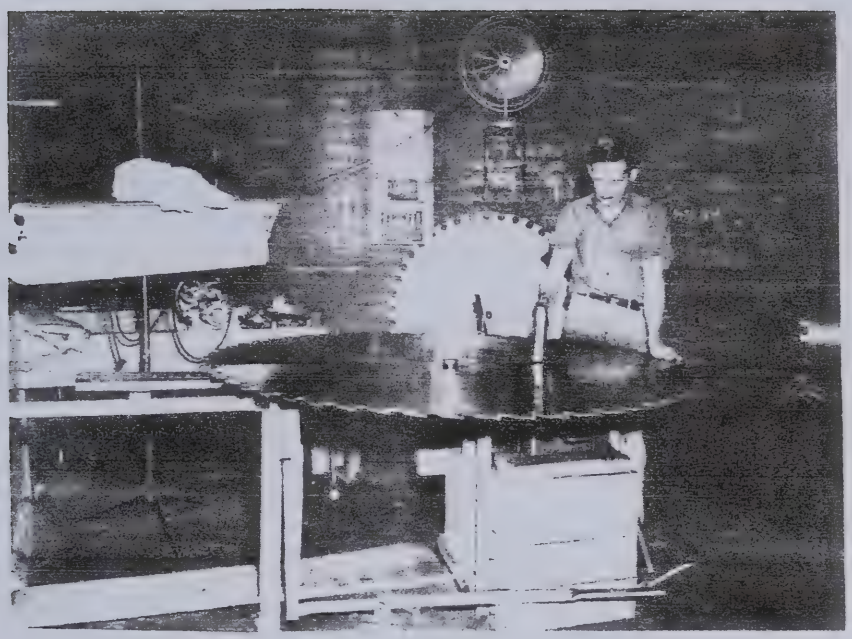
Homer had been working for Ora Lyons at the property that will eventually become the Lakewood Park Church and School Property. There was also another property he owned that Homer worked on at the same time. Mr. Lyons had a house on a lake that he wanted Homer to help with. The house was still usable, but the other building was not. The work was to cut trees and brush to make room to have a mover come and move the house and Homer was to tear the other small building down for the material he could salvage from it.

Homer had been having trouble with dirt in the gasoline he had been using and at the time one of the major companies had installed filters on all their gas pumps at the stations and this prompted him to change companies where he purchased fuel, and he never looked back. The company was Standard Oil.

Homer had been using the top saw rig he had made for the sawmill for quite a while and was having trouble with it not cutting straight or pulling to the side when he used it. He had checked the RPM with the tachometer and that was okay for the tension the saw was hammered for, but the other problem was that it was a solid tooth saw and it needed to be "gummed" or the area below the tooth edge did not have enough room for the sawdust to properly exit when sawing. This was because the teeth were now at the wrong angle, and not cutting correctly, they were blunt, so to speak. This gumming required the gullets to be deepened by grinding, and he did not have the capability to do this, at this time. After doing the gumming the saw would require "hammering", to re tension the blade, since the outside rim had changed tension from the gumming. There was a man in Indianapolis, Indiana, that did this work and brought his tools with him. The man was Harry Moore, and the work he did was with special hammers and straight edges as well as the knowledge to do the work. Saws are tensioned for the speed that the saw will run, so that the blade will "flatten" at the specified RPM. When the blade is correctly set, it will droop a certain amount in the center at idle when supported by the rim. When the work was completed and the saw re-mounted and used it worked properly. As I write this, I realize that it was a different era then, as the charge was only $11.00, and I believe the man was already in the area doing other work for other sawmills at the time.

My father asked me to accompany him to help with brush removal at the property on Co. Rd. 29, where Ora Lyons was clearing a wooded area, and there is a notation that my father paid me for what I did on 2 different days there. It was $15 each day so I must have been doing well, I remember being there but do not remember the work at all. The area that we worked in, was near where the present driveways are, but that is all I remember.

We went to my aunt and uncles home in late July and Homer was requested by my uncle, Loren to bring the chainsaw along, because he had some tree work he needed done. There were 3 or 4 trees that he cut down in the rear yard and my uncle had purchased a new section of rope that was 125' long to use for making sure the trees fell where they should. They trusted my father's judgment and all went well. Loren's truck was used as the rope tension vehicle. After all the trees were on the ground, we all pitched in and carried brush and fire wood to the properly appointed locations.



Skilled workman, tensioning a circular saw blade.

Homer started another project in mid July, and it is going well, he is painting the house he grew up in, the color is white, and the paint brush he bought to paint the barn is still going strong. It is a large 2 story house and this is the first time it has been painted since it was new in 1914. It took a lot of scraping to get it ready, but in mid August it was finished.

The sawmill has been pretty quiet, but that will change as the farmers look toward fall. Homer had ordered a new 12" surface planer from the Belsaw Machinery Co. and it arrived on August 22, 1960. He had also ordered an attachment for it, a 2- saw rip saw that could be used at the same time as the planer was running or independently. The saws were adjustable by loosening 2 set screws on the collar and sliding the saws to a new position and securing them again. The planer also had a small section of the blade mount that could hold cutters for making tongue and groove cuts, which he ordered. The complete package weighed 310 pounds and cost $299.29, with shipping costs.

There were 3 lumber customers in August and 2 welding jobs. All of the lumber work was under 65 dollars total. There were 3 customers wanting fire wood, and one of them wanted slab wood from the sawmill. It's the time of the year to purchase automotive anti-freeze and permanent could be had for $1.89 per gallon. Sawmill saw teeth are still $14.80 per 100, and there was a chainsaw repair that required a new chain and sprocket, as well as welding the bar tip, plus a new air filter. Cost was $44.05.

In mid September the new electric service was completed in the new sawmill building addition. It was 100 Amp, 240 Volt service and it was a large improvement. The new building framing is finished and I remember thinking, that's a lot of space. The roof had only black tar paper, through the winter.

September also saw the addition of an inside bathroom,at our house, but with only a toilet in the beginning. There were 5 lumber customers in September, and they spent a total of $84.00. One wanted a wagon reach, which connected the front and the rear of the wagon together on older style wagons, another bought some gate material and another purchased some fence posts. With this type of sales, most of the time Homer had some material sawed ahead to select from.

October was busier at the sawmill because the farmers are mostly done with the outside work and are trying to get ready for the Winter. $158.00 spent on sawmill lumber in the month and one of the customers spent $110.00, on framing material for an addition to one of his farm out- buildings. Another wanted some fence boards and posts. November totals were $214.00, at an average of 25 dollars per customer.

The sawmill addition is closed in on the North and the East, the West is waiting for the doors to be hung. I assisted in the construction of this building, carrying materials and nailing on sheathing & some siding as I had time in the afternoons and on Saturdays. Much of the siding and sheathing was sawed out of American Elm as those trees were available everywhere because of the "Dutch Elm Disease."

December saw $125.00 of lumber sold and 4 welding jobs for farmers. More fire wood, too. There was a auction in the neighborhood that he went to. There he purchased another CO-OP tractor for parts, it had a cracked block from being frozen, but then determined that it could used. Homer has been purchasing materials from a man in Auburn, John McComas who did salvage wrecking as part of his income. He purchased some roofing slate for repairs to our house roof and enough brick to build a chimney in the new building that he just finished.

1960 finished with a total of $1232.71 of sawmill income, $600.00 dollars of painting income, $185.00 of custom chainsaw work, $75 dollars of welding and repair work. Fire wood was a very small amount of the income this year and will soon be a thing of the past as far as split wood is concerned.

More people are requesting slab wood from the sawmill now and it is being delivered. Homer has modified an old Letz feed grinder base and made a cut-off saw to cut slab wood with. The cut off saw required Homer to design and cut steel and weld up the upper section of the saw and make it so it is adjustable, so the belts can be tightened. The drive from the lower shaft to the saw shaft was made with 2- V-belts. The pulleys were set up by size to give the saw the proper RPM to saw properly. It was designed to be hinged at the bottom shaft, so the saw would be pulled toward the operator, to make the cut. It is powered by the CO-OP tractor power take off, by installing an out board bearing on an extended shaft of the PTO. The transfer of power is by a 4" wide flat belt. Now wood can be cut to any length that is desired. For the present it is being cut and thrown in a pile, where it has to picked up and thrown into a wagon, trailer, or truck, there is no elevator yet. As a side light, there has been a clutch release hooked up to the tractor to start the sawmill and cut off saw after the tractor is running and it is at the sawyer's position where he stands to run the sawmill. He has also mounted a tractor kill switch at that position.

1961

1961 begins with the final comments about Homer's farming operation. He is turning all of the farming over to Francis Dulle, a local farmer. The only thing Homer does yet this year, is pick his own corn, and two other local farmers corn. He is still raising some beef cattle for sale and for the families butchering use. The beef raising continues for another 5 or 6 years, then it is finished.

The sawmill is beginning to be more productive and Homer has been buying gloves for quite some time from J.C.Penney Stores to use at the mill. At this time the preferred type is the yellow cotton, fuzzy outside gloves, that come 3 pair to a pack for $1.29. Two purchases of the gloves on January 10 and 24, give the impression that 3 pair are lasting about 2 weeks. Working with rough lumber is hard on this type of gloves.

There is an auction and Homer is there, where he bids and buys 2 cans of belt dressing, 5- V-pulleys, a group of v-belts, some elevator chain, and 4 farm tractor mufflers, for $9.00 total. This was typical of the type of items he bought at auctions, items which could be used in the sawmill operation. The elevator chain would be used for the sawdust removal, or as it will be referred to, "the sawdust drag." The v-belts and pulleys can be used to run equipment and sometimes the piece of equipment would be re-positioned, further or closer to use use belts he had on hand, rather than purchasing new ones that he had to go to town for.

This month, I have a record of Homer's timber cutting, and hauling logs from the 5th. to the 30th, 16 work days total and some days it was for 2 hours, others it was all day, usually meaning starting at an hour after daylight, and working until at least near dark. Several days he just hauled logs, and others he both cut and hauled. On the 12th, he cut a tree that had honey in it and he brought the honey home and my mother loaded it into the blue canning pan and melted the wax out and we used the honey for quite sometime afterward. The woods had to be pretty close, because he hauled 4 loads on the 18th. Homer cut a yard tree for a neighbor on the 9th, and sawed lumber for Louis "Short", Timmerman, on the 14th. He is using the lumber to make gasoline pump bases out of it, for the company he works for, Par-Tee Co. just South of the Dekalb Co. line on St. Rd 1. The beginning of the Pallet business has come.

The boards that Homer sawed, for Mr. Timmerman were 1x6" and 1x8" lumber, that he was cutting to length, and hand nailing together, in a rectangle to make a base to mount the re-built gasoline pumps on.

January 12th, there is a slip showing the purchase of 200 gallon of regular gasoline and it cost 27 cents a gallon with the now 10 cents a gallon of state and federal fuel tax. A tractor battery at $12.45, and 4 gallon of anti-freeze at 6.24, and a tank of Acetylene, $4.50. It's winter and Homer does not have a heated workshop, so he can't make it with the Acetylene generator.

There is a note that Walter Reinhart , who lived just North of St. Joe, paid $50 dollars for lumber that Homer had sawed for him. I believe Homer had also cut the trees in Mr. Reinhart's woods and was purchasing some of the timber there as well. There was also sawing done for Walter Morr, who lived on Road 51 East of the sawmill. Mr. Metcalf, the Beagle dog man has requested that Homer make some rabbit nest boxes, as Bob is raising rabbits, because there are not enough rabbits in his fenced fields and it is cold weather, so Homer purchased some 1/2" black insulation board and built the boxes with a wood frame to support the black board. This was a pretty large area, because there were 4-4x8' sheets purchased. A pair of wooden wagon sills were sawed and the size would have been approximately, 2x8"x 14 or 16' long. They cost $9.00. Norm Gerig, purchased lumber in January and he received it in trade for pay, as he was hauling logs for Homer, part time.

Mr. MacNamara orders lumber, White Oak, probably for gates as he has a large herd of cattle for 35 dollars. Another farmer also ordered White Oak lumber at a cost of $28.00

The 200 gallon of gasoline for the sawmill purchased in January lasted until the 8th of February, not quite a month. At that time It was $54.00 for 200 gallons. The tank held 300 gallon when full. The sawmill is operating enough that Homer has hired one of the neighbors, Arthur Johnson, for his sawmill off bearer on the days he is sawing. Mr. Johnson is a farmer and can use the work in the winter, especially. The cotton gloves that I spoke of earlier, are being supplied for any of the people he as working for him in the mill and this continues for the whole time the sawmill operates. The type of gloves changes from time to time too.

Richard Myers, a farmer East of Waterloo, just East of road 47, is building more farm buildings and ordered lumber the cost $620.00, for framing materials, he was a large dirt and dairy farmer and his herd is growing. Walter Morr, is building and needs lumber in the Amount of $262.00, and there were a couple of other small jobs for 35 dollars total. Two customers bought slab wood and one wanted 2 cord of split chunk wood and Homer cut, split, and delivered it. The split wood, was being sold for $6.00 per cord at the time, that's 128 cubic feet of wood for a cord. The team of DuWayne Goings and Norm Gerig, were both dirt and cattle farmers and in the winter they did a lot of the log hauling when they could. One or both of them had loaders on their tractors, so loading logs was relatively easy for them.

The sawmill electric bill for the year was about $8.00 per month, and other items for this time included the transfer of a title for a vehicle, which I think was changing the truck he has been using from farm to business use. The $35.50 license plate charge is what makes me think that.

There is a note of an advertisement in the local paper, The Evening Star, that stated that there was lumber for sale at the sawmill and the phone number. The ad cost $4.50.

March begins with the hiring of Burtch Machine Shop, to machine a shaft ready for an edger that Homer is building to saw lumber to width, after it has been sawed from the log. The shaft has been removed from one of the combines Homer had been using in the farm work. The work for the machine shop will be to make the key way or slot to make the movable saw slide sideways on the shaft. The key way cost $8.00 to have it cut, and it should be noted that the shaft already had a short key way at each end to secure the mounting castings that held the beater bars on the shaft in the combine. Those castings were used to hold the saws , as they were 2 mating surfaces, circular but like book ends, about 3" in diameter. The Edger will have 2 saw blades, one will be set stationary on the shaft, in a position about 1/3 of the way in from one side of the edger, and the other will be movable, and the saws will be 14" diameter. The saws were already in the stockpile of materials that Homer had on hand. He had bought them at the junk yard, along with some other items, recently. The total operating width of the edger will be 40". The rollers that will be used for feeder rolls are also ready for use in the edger, because they had been picked up on another trip to the junk yard. They were 48" long and had a solid steel core about 3" in diameter, with an outside core of rubber just soft enough to be able to grab the wood as it was fed into the edger.

Walter Reinhart, had lumber sawed for a cost of $25.00, from his logs, 79 pieces of 2x5"x16' and a very long list of 1" lumber of varying widths and lengths, from 8' to 16' long. Leo Swary, about 2 miles North of St. Joe, had a large quantity of his logs sawed into lumber at this time and Homer cut the trees and hauled them. He also delivered the lumber back to Mr. Swary.

A block advertisement, 2"x2" was placed in the local paper, that the sawmill had lumber for sale, and this indicates that he now has a stock of lumber sawed and on hand ready for sale. This would include fence posts, gate boards, 2x4's in varying lengths, some of several sizes of 2" material, plus other sizes of lumber that could be purchased, at a reasonable price.

There was another box of bits for the mill saw purchased, and as a matter of information the mill saw required 26 teeth, and a box contained 100, so there were 3 sets plus, in a box. There is a note that the sawmill tractor required a set of spark plugs and they cost 62 cents each at this time. Three V-belts were bought for the running of the planer that had been purchased earlier. The 2 bearings for the edger shaft were purchased at a cost of $10.00. The saws for the edger needed to have the center hole cut to a new size and other mechanical parts were ordered at this time to finish up the construction of the edger. Homer sold and sawed a number of lots of lumber, to 10 different people in March. The average cost was $20 each.

Richard Crow, was the farmer that required the largest amount of lumber in March, and he was building a building and fence for his dairy and dirt farm North of St. Joe. He ordered a total of 4,569 board feet of material. Homer was also buying logs from him at this time also, and there were multiple things recorded on the page that contained these transactions. It recorded who hauled the logs, and all of the people that were involved in the process, as well as all of the financial items involved in it.

There were 11 lumber customers in April and the average billing was $25.00, and there is no record of what material they bought, but there was an upswing in the amount of different people that purchased lumber. There is a slip for gasoline on the 4th, for 200 gallon and a used truck tire from the junk yard for $12.00. The tire was a 8.25x20" and would have been used on the log hauling truck.

Homer did all his own tire work. At the time, all the tires were bias ply type, with a tube. If you had a flat tire, you usually had to repair the tube. At the time, tubes were patched by one of two methods. One way was to attach the patch with some type of adhesive. Some were ready to attach, and others required application of a liquid adhesive. The other method, was using a "hot patch". These patches were mounted on a diamond shaped piece of metal, with the other side having a up-turned lip about 1/4" high that was filled with a flammable material that was lit with a match. When these burned, they would literally heat seal the tube and the patch. There was a special clamp to hold the parts tightly together. Either method required that the tube be roughed up with a rasp type tool or sand paper, and that it be clean. My early years in the sawmill, I patched and changed a lot of tires with hand tools made for the purpose. It's usually hard work.

June 18, 1961, was special, because the days of using the telephone operator were ending. Direct Distance Dialing was implemented, and each local exchange required only dialing 7 numbers, to reach people in that exchange. New phone books were issued, and everyone had a new number. The country, was also divided into area's, with codes and by dialing 1+ the 3 digit code, + their 7 digit phone number, you could call any where in the country, with out an operator. We were on a party line and continued to be, with the new system. Our old number was 756-1, and the 1, meant if the phone only rang once consecutively, it was our call.

Homer had been using an old "Mall" brand electric hand saw and it died. The new saw he bought,I think it was a "Stanley", was for that day, expensive, at $79.50. He depended on the saw and needed a good one. It was purchased at Culbertson Hardware on East 7th. Street, North of the Court House. He also purchased 5 gallon of motor oil for $5.55, and two truck tires for $70.00, and a truck exhaust manifold for $20.00.

July, saw 10 lumber sales, at an average of $24.00 each. He sold more material to Par-Tee Co, because the amount was $60.00 this month. Homer did quite a lot of outside jobs this month, with $163 of work. There was a purchase of a 1952, 1-1/2 ton Chevrolet, from Hal Hoham, who owned Auburn Grain Co., for $150.00. It needed quite a bit of work but he was willing to do a lot of the work, himself.

The 1947 Chevy truck that is in need of a newer engine, and it will be a used 1957, 6-cylinder,for a total of $325 for the change out. The labor rate was $3.00 per hour, for 22 hours of work. Frank McCollough, did the work, and his shop was on 6th. Street, between Main and Cedar St. Homer bought some ¼" x 3-1/2 and 4" long bolts, to assemble the slab wood elevator he is building. Some of the bolts probably were used to finish the wood framed edger that is being assembled. A dozen, 10" sawmill files were purchased for less than a dollar a piece. National Mill Supply was the location of that purchase.

August begins with the chain saw needing a new sprocket, chain, a starter rope and there were some other minor parts needed too. Starter ropes were a common item to need replacement because of the constant stopping and starting, when you are in the woods and the log yard. They last a lot longer when you are cutting fire wood and just moving down the section of log or limb.

My father gets me out of the spot I'm in and takes me to the car, on the front passenger side, and goes to tell my mother where we are going. Before he goes to the house, I take my belt off and put it tightly above my knee. I had been in Boy Scouts and knew some of the danger I was in. The pain did not set in until we were almost to the hospital. The hospital was Souder Hospital on West 7th. St., West of Jackson St. That evening, Dr. Bonnell Souder was not in, but was called and authorized them to give me pain medication. The Dilgard and Cline ambulance was called, and I was off to Parkview Hospital, Randalia Dr., off of State Street, in Fort Wayne.

The ambulance was a funeral hearse with a cot in it and if needed, Oxygen was available. I was conscious the whole trip, and when we got to the Emergency room, and the doctor came in, and asked me, "Son can you move your toes?" I tried and 2 or 3 would move quite well. The doctor said, "I think we can help you". That doctor was Dr. Phillip Hershberger. Off to surgery I went.

My father told me later that my left shoe was 15' from where I had been and my pants leg was torn off above my knee. I don't remember about the pants leg at all, I just remember the belt part of the situation. The first surgery , I have been told went well and they brought me to a room with 3 other men in it, all with serious injuries. I was in a cast and was kept pretty dozy, so I do not remember much. Both leg bones had been broken about 3" above the ankle and the leg was torn open from the ankle to just below the knee. The real issue was the amount of dirt and sawdust that had gotten into the wound. GOD had provided, there were no major blood vessels, nerves or muscles badly torn.

However, infection set in, in the bone and it became necessary to be in the operating room once a week for 5 more surgeries. Each surgery removed the infected areas on the bone and the pain lessened with each time. One thing I do remember, was a wonderful LPN, named Ruth, she was very kind to me during the day shift and made an impression on me for the care she gave. Around the 16th. of October, I was given permission to go home, because the infection was gone and the leg was nearly healed. Crutches became my friend for the next 2 weeks. I got to celebrate my 16th. birthday at home.

I did have to return to the hospital 2 weeks later, to have skin grafting done on two areas that did not heal on their own. I was there for two weeks, then I got to go home. I started back to school around the 1st. of December.

My father never talked about it with me, afterword, but I was aware that his father had lost the right leg ~~below~~ ABOVE the knee in about 1883, as a 20 year old, and used crutches and an artificial leg all his life, so my father had to have been thinking that first day about what might happen if they could not save my leg.

My last appointment with Dr, Hershberger was in February, 1962 and we thanked him for the wonderful work he did. He told us, that if the situation had been a couple of years earlier, they would have taken the leg off below the knee.

I have lived a pretty normal life and am thankful God chose to save me, so I could live and serve the Lord.

While I was in the hospital, the sawmill work went on as soon as Homer knew I was being taken care of. There was an order for Par-Tee Co. on the 8th, of September. Homer made a wooden calf feeder for another farmer, over on Co. Rd. 39 for $8.00. Arthur Moore, from road 46-A, just east of the big dip at road 37 purchased lumber in the amount of $11.80. On the 19th, Homer was in Fort Wayne for one of my surgeries. After I was back in my room he went to two supply houses to get folding log scales and welding rods.

Edwin Brown and Kenneth Summers purchased farm lumber. Another farmer brought his silage chopper blades for Homer to sharpen. There were four other farm lumber sales in September. The total income from these sales was $142.00.

October lumber sales were nearly a $1,000.00, with one of them being a neighbor who was going to build a large farm barn. His framing lumber was $800.00. This was the only complete barn Homer sawed lumber for. The barn was to be on Co. Rd. 45 just north of 46-A. Homer sawed a lot of barn shed additions, over the years.

There were 4 people that purchased slab wood at this time. There were several men working a few hours a week in the sawmill at this time and they were being paid day labor wages. This changed in late October, when Homer purchased liability insurance. The insurance was described as "assigned risk". This meant that the companies in this category were high risk occupations, mines, quarries, gravel operations, heavy construction and steel mills. The insurance companies were assigned to take and cover these high risk operations. The insurance covered employees in the event of an accident involving logging, lumbering, transportation of logs to the mill, construction, operation, maintenance or extension lo logging roads and drives. Now his employees were being paid and taxes were being taken out of their pay.

November had $800.00 of lumber sales and some chunk wood and slab wood for $45.00, There was one order of farm lumber, to be planed also. Homer had an ad posted, desiring workers to help at the mill.

Homer purchased a winch at the local junk yard for $13.00, for a future project he was planning. The 1-1/2 ton Chevy truck he had purchased in July, is being readied to become a skidding truck with a winch and 3 pole boom attached to the frame of the truck. The boom would have a pulley at the center of the top, and it would be adjustable for various weight uses. There would be 2 heavy pipes attached to the outside rear of the frame of the truck, about 4' apart. The third pipe, would be attached near the rear of the cab in the center, and it would be a slider with 2 pipes one inside the other. Those pipes would have holes to adjust the length of the pipe. The winch would be operable from the cab of the truck. Homer purchased tire chains and installed a steering knob on the steering wheel. The truck did not have power steering, and Homer was muscular, so it worked well.

December saw a total of $225.00 in lumber sales and 4 fire wood customers. On the 5th, of December, Homer purchased timber from Orange Carnahan of road 68, near old 427, for $300.00.

The year ends with a gross sawmill income of $5,468.00, which was very good.

# 1962

Arthur Johnson is working with Homer in the woods and the sawmill. He is off bearing, and cutting slab wood in the sawmill. When Homer is in the woods, he has asked Arthur to assist him by moving brush and hooking and un-hooking the log tongs, so Homer does not have to get off and on the tractor so much.

I am getting therapy once a week, on my left ankle and the muscles that are used to flex my ankle. I was in a cast long enough that the joint has stiffened from not being used. It is getting better, but will not ever have full motion again. I am also learning to turn the foot outward at the toes, when I walk, because it did not heal in the correct alignment.

The chain saw is in the shop being repaired. It suffered damage, from a tree rolling on it after the tree was cut. The muffler housing, starter housing had to be replaced, at a cost of $13.21. There are other issues, it has been quite cold and the mill tractor is not starting. He does not own a battery charger, so the battery is removed and taken to one of the shops he uses and is charged. The mechanic suggests several things that might be causing it not to start, most of which Homer had checked. The one thing that he had not done was check or change the distributor cap. That solved the problem. Homer had used Ether, Yes, this it what is used to put people out to do surgery. Ether is very effective, as a starting fluid, because it has a high flash point. Do Not use it in today's newer engines, or you will cause damage. Another problem he was dealing with was, the tail lights and turn signals on the log truck. It was a problem for several reasons, starting with fact tat the wiring was not as well contained as it is now, and in the woods, the brush would catch wires and pull them apart and, you could also back into something and damage the light fixtures themselves.

February began with an electric motor that ran a smaller cut off saw, failing and being repaired at a local motor repair shop for $30. He also had to remove the radiator from the mill tractor and have it repaired, by Mr. Immel, on Union St. Age and vibration were the cause of that failure. A truck tire got punctured, and the repair was a "Boot", installed between the inside of the tire and the tube. These things are a sample of every day life at the mill. Cold weather also plays a part in how many problems there are.

In February there were12 customers and $407.00 of lumber sold, either as custom sawing or products from our stock or manufacture. During the month, Homer was contacted by someone that knew he was buying timber and Homer made contact with a contractor, Harry Soucie, who was beginning to bulldoze some trees just south of Co. Rd. 68. This was the beginning of the clearing for building I-69, in our area. Homer went and talked to Harry, and they came to agreement that Homer would purchase logs from trees that were being removed. This meant that there was urgency in the situation, because Harry had a job to do and he was not trying to be neat. He did lay the trees out for Homer to cut, but they were dirty, because they were being taken out by the roots, and being rolled around.

Eventually Homer caught up with the removal and was able to cut the trees ahead of the contractor. Harry was not real happy, because he had been using the height of the tree as a means of rocking them back and forth to bring them down. Now he was dealing with the stump and roots only, and it was harder. Don't feel to sorry for the bulldozer operator though, he has a special blade on the dozer and it has a corner built into his blade. It is made like a dirt plow point and he can shear off sections of the stump 6" thick at a time, while going around the stump.

Homer was approached about being a candidate for Township Trustee, and he reluctantly said yes. He did not campaign, and Hubert McNamara won the position. I think Homer was relieved.

Homer had talked to a state trooper before he began hauling the logs from the I-69 project woods with Mr Soucie. He asked him about crossing the Co. Rd. 52 steel overhead bridge that had a weight limit. The policeman said, "You can cross it, but if you break through or damage it , it will be your expense and ticket". He chose to use the bridge and never had any trouble. Auburn Drive was not yet built.

February had $211.00 of farm lumber sold and one of the slips said at the bottom, "Paid, Thank-You, George Abel". This means I was out and helping in the mill again, at least some of the time.

Logs were purchased from Richard Crow and Homer paid him that day for a set amount of timber, that they had looked at. There was a large barn shed sawed out in mid March. and it was over 2,000 board feet of material.

Homer made samples of both of the products he was making for Dana, and they were satisfied with the quality.

Homer is making the pallets and tops, and it is going well, they are not finished yet. He did talk me into coming out and "helping" nail them together. I had a lot of learning to do. We are both trying to mail on the same piece at the same time and I keep bending nails or hitting my finger or thumb while trying to start a nail while dad is nailing. I am totally inexperienced. I did not help very long on this first group of work.

Homer is at the junk yard again getting the pipe he needs for the winch truck build. The pipe is heavy gauge 2-1/2" and 3" diameter, and a minimum of 10' long. When the truck is finished, the logs it moves will have a lot less dirt on them because, they will be up in the air on one end, and only the end on the ground being towed will be dirty.

Homer had a lot of log chain, for use securing the logs on the truck, but did not have any that were suitable for the pallets. They were too heavy. He chose to purchase 1/4" chain and hooks, plus joiner links to attach the hooks. They would be easy to toss over the pallets to secure them. The original cable that moved the carriage of the sawmill is wearing out and Homer purchased new cable, called wire rope, which has smaller gauge wires to make the cable, therefore, it is more flexible. The cable was purchased at Auburn City Hardware. It cost $19.20.

The first delivery of the new product to Dana was March 19th. There were 100 each of the pallets and tops. The pay cycle was 30 days after delivery, making it about April 18th, when the first check arrived. The tops were .50 cents a piece, and the pallets were, $1.14 each. I am sure Home felt good about the new work. LeRoy Pence was the receiving clerk at the time.

Mahlon Rieke lived just north of St. Rd. 8 on road 45, and he purchased enough White Oak lumber to build a fence along his yard, probably 100 feet long. I believe he purchased posts as well.

More logs will be available along the I-69 corridor. Mr. Soucie got the contract to clear the area for the rest parks on both sides of the new road about 1 mile north.

Cox Cabinet needs more lumber, American Beech this time. 1,267 feet, at 8-1/2 cents a foot.

The March totals were, lumber sales, $560.00, and one customer was a large portion of that. Bill Cox purchased another batch of Sugar Maple, 4,216 feet worth. April 3rd, Clifford Hankey, one of the middle men, works at Hendrickson Tandem Axle in Butler. He ordered some lumber for his own use. He purchased 17-2x10x12' pieces of lumber, and in the conversation, he says,"The place I work for is having trouble getting blocking to use in shipping their products." Then he says, "Are you interested in making some 2x4lumber in lengths that I can cut up into short pieces and sell to them?" They exchanged phone numbers, and Homer received a call,. Homer sawed a group of 2x4's and Cliff came and got them. The next week cliff calls and says he would like Homer to cut them up for him. "It was obviously more work to cut them than Cliff thought." They talk, and Homer gives Cliff a price and they agree. Homer goes to work and makes 50 pieces, and a week later 50 more.

I edited some of this to get it in better order and it is now shorter.

Earl Coplin, is purchasing some farm lumber, and he asked if Homer would want more pallet work. Earl has been making pallets for New Haven Wire & Cable for a while. I do not know where he has been getting the lumber, but it was not from Homer. His desire is to not make pallets anymore, but would be willing to deliver them. This will make Earl the middle man. Homer agrees to make the pallets, and a schedule is set up for pick-up.

Sometime in early June, I am asked if I would drive a log truck and go along to the woods at the I-69 project, where Homer will load the truck and I will drive it back to the mill, where he will unload it later in the day. I have been driving the truck around the mill back lots and using the tractors since I was 13 or 14, and was comfortable with the truck. The truck was a 4 speed transmission, with a two-speed rear axle. I said yes, and we got ready and went there. He tells me before we leave that the area is hilly and quite steep. I will be driving the straight truck with a 14 foot bed on it. When we get there, we turn left off of C.R. 68, and start down hill, the first hill drops about 20', and the second is steeper and drops another 15', the third is a long, gentile, slope and we are at the bottom. Dad starts by loading a small log that is about 30' long on the truck in the center, and chaining it securely at the front. The log is 2'" from the cab and the chain is in the first 6" to avoid being in the way of the other logs that will be loaded. This log is my safety, while I'm going back up the hills on the way out, as it will prevent a total tip up of the truck. We did this several times, and I never did have any problems, driving out. The other logs were mostly Soft Maple, in the area we were working.

I was also helping about 2 times a week, with the nailing of the pallets and lids. The lids were a real challenge to nail, for me, because the nails were driven at an angle, and my father is working on the other side, nailing also. He strikes at a different pace than I do and there is a constant shaking and movement of the boards. After a dozen or so times, I finally begin to get better, and mostly stopped hitting my thumb and finger, that I hold the nails with. The secret is, to get confident enough to strike the nail on the first strike with enough force, to make it stay in the board. I was not working all the time and was learning yet. I was volunteer labor and was not being paid at this time.

Mr. Hankey, is having pallets made, and then delivering them himself. He is paying $1.12 per pallet, and then re-selling them to the company at a higher price. The mill is receiving $168.00 every 2 weeks from this venture.

The New Haven Co., is getting pallets through it's middle man, and the sawmill is receiving $1.65 per pallet from that operation. The mill is making 250 pallets at a time for this company. They are 24"x36", with ½ inch material on the top and bottom. This pallet is a one time use item.

The chain saw is getting a lot of use and is in need of a new starter rope, chain and drive sprocket. The job at the I-69 clearing is about finished up, and Homer has been told by Mr. Soucie that he will be working next, just a little ways North, at the area that will be the Rest parks, one on each side of the road. They write an agreement and Homer works this job alone, I did not help haul from there.

The rest area sites had a lot of Sugar Maple and White Oak, that was quality timber, and Homer sold quite a lot of these logs to the Distler sawmill, to make grade lumber out of. He was being paid, $110.00 per 1,000 board feet of lumber scale, for these logs.

The log truck is out of service for a broken leaf main leaf, in one of the rear axle springs, and Homer found a used set at the junk yard for $6.00 and replaced the whole spring set.

There are times as I write this, that I think wow, that's a lot of nails, and yes, it was. Homer is just trying to find the best nail for the job. He is back at Schlatter Hardware again, getting nails. This time it is 100 pounds of 8d, cement coated, 50 pounds of 3d, and 50 pound of screw nails for hard wood. The nails for hard wood, are nails that are made with a flat end, instead of a sharp diamond point. These nails will push the wood, vertically as they go in without splitting the wood. They require more force with the first strike to start them, but there is no splitting of the wood. Some companies describe them as pointless nails, this one did not. The charge for all 3 containers of nails was $29.20.

The June sales of custom sawing and lumber sales was $405.00. This was from 12 customers and included the pallets for Hendrickson's middle man, and the ones for the New Haven Wire and Cable's middle man, because these were not our direct sales to the end customer.

The totals for 1962, of the direct sale pallets and blocking, to Dana, will appear at the end of the year, for this year only.

Another 1/4" log chain of approx 24' was purchased, for $5.00. Homer, has the A-frame truck ready to use, with the winch and boom operable. Because it is special equipment, he is talking it over with an insurance underwriter, to get the okay to have it covered on the insurance. The conditions were that it would not have more than 5,000 miles of driving, in a year, and it would be used for skidding logs, in the woods. One reason this truck was needed was, that Homer is now a lot further from the mill than he was a year ago, and he had been skidding the logs with the Farmall, Regular tractor. Moving it was becoming a problem. On the jobs where Harry Strong is working as an independent contractor,cutting and skidding logs out, he is responsible for his own insurance.

A year ago Indiana, required the mill to get a store license. They made it law that everyone that was a final purchaser of a product had to pay state sales tax. All of the people that came in off the street to purchase lumber, now were required to pay sales tax on the lumber they bought. The new paper permit cost $3.50. each year.

The sawmill received a notice that the bid had been accepted for a new product. The PE-1404, was a lid for a medium weight pallet that circulated between the various Dana plants. It was 40"x48" with 3- 1x4" boards length ways and the cross boards were 1/2" thick and 4" wide and to be nailed or stapled together. It was much like the 1407 except it was heavier duty material. The 1x4's were to have a 45degree angle cut on the ends. The angle was accomplished by holding the board at a 45 degree angle and sawing the end. These angled ends would face upward and the angle provided for the steel banding to go over the board end without breaking the band, when securing the load for shipping. They were to be assembled the same way as the 1407, by clinched nail or staples, driven at an angle. The price was 74 cents each. Homer went to the scrap yard again and purchased 3 pieces of flat steel, it was 1/2" thick and 4 " wide and 48" long. The first 10 were delivered, for trial, on the 12th. of July and the other 190, 4 days later. They worked, but there were a few sharp points of nails on the 1x4's that did not clench properly.

Because of the nail point problem, he did hammer the points down, when he started the next order of the 1404 lids. This required very accurate hammer strikes, at a angle sharper than the nail had been inserted. The angle that the nail was driven was more than was at first thought it would be. It was accomplished and with practice it went better, and there were fewer times that nails had to be re-hammered.

July ends with 15 lumber customers, and a total of $856.79 in sales. A sizable amount of the total is the 2 pallet jobs that the middle men are purchasing. Those products, plus some more eventually become our products, delivered by the mill.

The generator on the truck, stops working, and Homer goes to Allison Corp., to purchase a re-built one and turn the old one in for core, or rebuilding. He installs the generator and it is ready to work. Simple repairs like this are about all he has time for any more. Earlier, he did almost all of the repairs on the vehicles and equipment.

The flat belts that run the feed works of the mill, get a lot of torture and break fairly often. That requires a joiner material, called belt lacing. The brand he uses is Alligator. It is a strip of metal, with 2 sides in a v-shape that have a row of 5/16" long teeth. It is pressed out of a flat piece of metal about .025 of an inch thick, then cut with a press in a factory, into sharp teeth on both sides and folded into the v-shape. One side has a section of metal that holds it has a solid strip. As it is formed the teeth are formed in another operation so that they can be hammered into the rubber or leather flat belting. Both ends of the belt receive a toothy section and then a metal pin is inserted into the gaps between the belt and the location of the pins go, when the 2 sections are meshed. On smaller belts, this process can be accomplished in less than 10 minutes.

Trees were purchased from Ray Carnahan on C.R. 68 East of old 427. The most common way to mark trees that are to be cut was to use paint from a spray can and mark the tree at chest height and about 2" above the ground so there would be a record of whether the tree had been marked or not prior to and after the cutting. Down payment of $150, which was common on larger lots of timber.

There is a lot going on at the mill. Farm lumber, pallets for two middle men, 2x2 blocking,2 types of pallet lids, one type of pallet for Dana, making slab wood, cutting and hauling logs, and scaling, (measuring to get the board feet of lumber the log will make,) so the timber owner can be paid for the timber correctly, and Homer will better know how to bid on the various tracts of trees for logs.

Nails, nails, nails, more are bought on 9-28,1972. 50 pound of 16d for construction, 50 pound of 2-1/2" screw nails, 50 pound of 1-1/4 ring shank, and 100 pounds of 2" with a checkered head, that will be used for the for the PE- 1406.

August ends with $683.00 of lumber and pallets for the 2 middle men. 13 different customers, including Willard Hurni, who was in the process of developing Wild Cherry Park on the North edge of St. Joe, In. Homer cut the logs from the future park area to make lumber for a pavilion in the park, and Mr. Hurni constructed it. Sadly we have no pictures of it and it was destroyed by high winds about 2 years later. Dwight Carnahan, South of U.S. 6, had his logs sawed for framing for a large shed on his cattle farm. Cecil Friend, 3+ miles South, brought logs to be sawed from his woods, for a shed attached to his barn. There were also 3 customers who had lumber planed at the mill.

Arthur Johnson is now a full-time employee, and is working in the mill and helping build pallets, occasionally helping in the woods too. Toward the middle of September, a shaft that worked the feed works broke from the constant stress, (it had been a used shaft to begin with), the mill did not come with a factory built feed, other than a hand cranked version. Homer went to the scrap yard and found another section of shaft that he could use for $5.60, which he modified to work.

The end of September, Homer requested and received permission to raise the price of the 1406 pallet and 1407 lid. The 1406 was raised by 11 cents and the 1407 by 5 cents. This was a learning period for him, because he had never made a product like this before, and did not know what the actual cost would be, to produce these pieces. At the same time he talked to Mr. Timmerman and they agreed that it would be best if Homer cut the pieces to length for the gas pump bases. The first shipment of these pieces was 150 each of the 2 sizes they were using, 1x8x31-1/4" and 1x6x19-3/4".

September farm lumber sold was, $631.00. Homer paid the last to Mr. Soucie for logs from the I-69 projects. Sometime in the month, the sawmill tractor engine needed new valve seats, valves and valve guides. McCollough Service did the work and Homer had gone to Allison Corp to get the parts. Allison's was located on North Main St, on the West side, near Greenhurst Country Club, at that time.

At the same time as the mill was down for the tractor repair, Homer also had received new track and wheels for the carriage to run on. The track was much heavier than the original track. Instead of 1/4" width and height of the rib, the new track was 5/8" both ways. The track replacement was a huge improvement, because the carriage was now much more secure and stable when logs were being turned. I do not remember this series of events, but I think he must have sawed quite a large quantity of lumber ahead to make time to have the tractor and the track done. A big reason for these improvements was, Homer had bid and received the order to build another product. The product was the 1402 standard 40"x48" pallet, which had 3/4"boards on the top and bottom and was a re-usable unit. His bid was for $2.15 each for the pallets. They would all be hand nailed, using the 2-1/2" screw pallet nail. The first order was for 400, and 200 were released to be made and then the company would sent an active order to ship them, either by phone or written. They weighed between 70-80 pounds each, because the wood was fresh sawed hardwood and not dried out yet. For shipping purposes they were stacked 10 high.

Homer went to an auction, North of St. Joe, and bid on and bought another older sawmill and a very heavy drill press. The sawmill was never assembled, but the saw blade was stored for possible use at a later date. The drill press was set up to do a lot of the work that had been being done with a hand held drill, and this would make drilling deep or heavy holes a lot easier. Other items were also purchased and the total bill was$68.75.

Homer had been at a woods skidding logs and neglected to pick up the log tongs and heavy chain he used to skid with. When he returned the next time, they were gone, someone had taken them. He put an ad in the paper, requesting their return, but no one replied. He moves on for the time being, using only a chain to skid. This requires using the cant hook, to roll the log onto the chain if there is not a gap under the log to slip the chain through.

The hand nailing of the pallets and tops is causing the need of relief, and Homer purchased an air compressor that is on wheels, and a staple gun to assemble all but the new 1402 pallets. The gun would drive staples from 1-1/4 to 2" long and would work for all of the earlier products. To begin, he buys only two lengths of staples, 1-1/4" and 1-3/4" The gun, staples, air compressor and hose cost $478.00.

He is also looking forward and realizes he has to begin having full time hired help. This brings the need to talk to a lawyer about the various considerations about Corp, partnership, liability, ownership, insurance, withholding. Up to this point, it has been day labor, and there has been no liability insurance.

Another bid has been accepted by Dana, for their PE-1405, expendable pallet. The pallet is 34" square and has 3pieces of 1-1/2x4x34" long for runners, and 3 pieces 1/2"x4"x34" for the bottom boards. The top side will be made up of varying width 1/2" thick material and the spacing between the boards is to be not more than 2". The price per pallet will be $1.20, in quantities of 100 or more delivered at a time. This is one of the major products the company uses.

The tractor power unit is working well, after the intake and exhaust valve job, in fact it now has more vacuum of the air through the carburetor, and the carb is now icing because of the air rushing through. The first solution is to set up a heat lamp that will help heat it. It works, but getting the spacing just right is a challenge some of the time. The amount of humidity in the air had an effect also.

The end of the month farm lumber sales were $1,050.00, with 16 customers. Howard Troyer, was a potato farmer and needed some lumber to repair his potato crates. The material needed to be 3/8" thick and would be 3" wide, but did not have to be cut to length, he would do that cutting. Marshall Carnahan ordered framing lumber for a new garage, for $67.44. Cecil Brown bought framing lumber for a shed addition on his barn. All of these men lived either on C.R. 40-A or 40 East of Auburn.

Homer still needed more chain to secure the pallet loads he was now hauling, and the Chevrolet skidding truck is getting shock absorbers, and 6 ton of stone has been delivered, for an area where the driveway is soft. A new band saw blade was ordered, for $6.35, and special made, at 135" which was not a standard length. The blade had 3 teeth per inch, which made it a good match for sawing thicker and heavier size wood.

Homer is now purchasing a new set of log tongs, a section of 3/8" chain, hooks and cold shut links to make up the new chain for skidding log. He also bought 4 cant hook handles, 2 more chain binders, and a 30' section of chain for pallet hauling. The log tongs were $18.76, and the rest of the items were $20.57. The Chevy truck also got a complete brake job at this time.

There is still some farm lumber being sold, and there will still be custom lumber sawed but it will make a much smaller portion of the income.

The end of 1962 totals for pallet production were: Pallets- 3,823, Pallet tops or lids, 2,000, and miscellaneous blocking and parts, 2,500 pieces. 80 different farmers and others purchased varying amounts of sawed lumber. The pallet business had 4 different customers, Dana Corp., Hendrickson Tandem Corp, Par-Tee, and one middle man, selling to New Haven Wire and Cable. The Gross income for the year was $10,601.

1963

January 2nd. there is a delivery to Dana, 52-PE1402 heavy pallets, 50-PE1404 tops, 200-PE1414, 50" long stakes. On January 3rd, a delivery of 100-PE1405's I had been involved in the nailing of pallets at this time because, there is a note that I was paid for helping. I was being paid on a day labor basis at this time. Driving nails into some of the harder woods was a real trial for me. I learned after many bent nails and some sore fingers and thumb, and as a kid 17 years old , it was a good experience.

In the early part of the year, timber was purchased from Franklin Rupert, Vincent Rupert, Thornton Zeisloft, and Edward Carper. The Rupert's were on the North DeKalb Co line, and the other two were within 2-1/2 miles of the sawmill, to the Northeast.

My mother was an avid bird watcher and in the winter, bird feeding was one of her passions. At the same time Homer would sometimes have a log that had an opening that had been used as a squirrel entrance, when the tree was standing. In the mill, it would get cut off so that it was about 4-5" thick. With the addition of a back board being attached over the fresh cut and a wire for hanging, it became a bird feeder. She usually had 2 or 3 of these hanging where they could be seen from the kitchen windows.

My parents listened to radio station WOWO in Fort Wayne, and about January 16th, the weather report was that there would be a very cold period in a few days. Homer is concerned about the tractor and the trucks starting and purchased 2 more spray cans of Ether, to use for engine starting. While he is out he also bought 200 pounds of 2-1/2" screw thread nails, for $41.88. They also have a cross hatch raised surface on the head. This feature gives more stability to the contact between the hammer and the nail, as it is driven. Also purchased were a dozen 10" mill files, and a 100 count box of saw teeth. The weather report was correct, and on the 23rd, and the 24th, it was -20 degrees , and -17 degrees, respectively. The notes I have are so specific that I find that he and another man, Mr. Johnson nailed pallets those two days.

On January 9th, 16th, 22nd, 29th, there were 4 more trips to Dana with pallets and tops. On the 30th, the middle man got 108- 24x36" pallets for New Haven Wire and Cable.

Homer has been wanting a fork lift for a while to load the pallets on the truck, and handle logs. His mechanic Mr. McCollough had a fork lift on his lot that someone had left him to sell for what he could get out of it. The unit was an American Tractor Co, M-3 Terra Trac, fork lift on tracks. The engine was a Case. The work it needed, was to replace all of the drive gear on one side of the machine, shaft, bearings, sprocket and the chain of the tread, called rail, on both sides of the unit. This would be very labor intensive, all of the track plates had to be removed to replace the rails and then replaced with new bolts. All of the parts and labor amounted to $1784.00. the engine was not perfect, but it ran and had decent compression in the cylinders. It was not burning oil, so Homer purchased it. It became a very useful part of the operation. My mother called it "Kitty", because of the way it looked when it was turned, quickly.

Seven trips were made to Dana in February, and there were12 farm lumber customers. Also pallets for both of the other companies,that the middle men supported, and one delivery to Par-Tee Co.

Through a contact, Homer is put in touch with a man in the Woodburn area, on Bull Rapids Road, that has a woods for sale to be cut down and turned into farm land. His name Was Norbert Brenneke, and Homer made him an offer for the timber and it was accepted. This was the beginning of purchasing timber from several more farmers in that area. Business is built on relationships, and Homer is beginning to have "good will" in an expanding area. One of the things that Mr. Brenneke and Homer talked about was the fact that he was not just a timber buyer, but also owned and operated a sawmill. Mr. Brenneke told Homer that there was a sawmill just down the road to the West on old road U.S. 24. The mill was operated with a steam traction engine and he should go talk to them. Within a couple of weeks, Homer does stop and talk the owner of the sawmill, John Harper. After seeing the mill, Homer is interested in seeing the mill operate, and they set a date.

Homer also purchases timber from a Mr. A. J. Moore on C.R. 49 at road 34. This is near the little burg of Moore. There is still an old county school building just South of this farmer's timber tract.

Top, "American Tractor Co., M-3 TERRA-LIFT. Center, 1954 Ford, with loader and detachable forklift. Homer, and he is holding Michael Abel, ( not moving). Bottom, "International" 504 forklift.

One of the items from the A. J. Moore Auction, a sheep shearing tool box.
In this picture, George Abel is using it.

Homer's meeting with Mr. Harper and his son, John Richard, and seeing the steam engine operate the sawmill was fascinating to Homer. He had taken some logs to have them sawed into pallet lumber and it was done. Mr. Harper also had an old re-saw, that could be used to cut 2" lumber into 2- 1" pieces or re-saw it. He was wanting to sell it and Homer purchased it for $85.00.

Among the other people that Homer is in contact with is a man that operated a pallet business on South Indiana Ave, in Auburn. He operated J-Box Co. and when Homer stopped, there was a man, Charlie Rainier, who needed a source of wood for a product he was involved with. His first request was if Homer could supply him with various width 3/8" thick material to make the heads or ends of wood cheese barrels for his re-sale to County Line Cheese Company. They came to an agreement, then the man said, he needed someone to sharpen the saws that were used to cut the material into a circle. The circles needed to be tapered on the edges so that they would fit in the groove of the uprights of the barrel, which had a groove at each end. The saws were literally a curved shape like the piece of a basket ball being cut about 1-1/2" in from the edge straight across. Homer said he would try to sharpen them, and he was successful. Homer sawed the wood for Mr. Rainier, from April 1st. Till the end of July. Mr.Rainier lost his contract and Homer did not want to pick it up.

During that time,Homer sawed 34,435 board feet of that material, that paid him, $1,482.00. Something that comes up when figuring lumber is, if the material is under 1" thick, it still counts as though it was, so the 3/8" thick material was all figured as though it was 1" thick. This process first came up when in earlier times all lumber was sawed with a circular saw and the cut was a strong ¼ of an inch. You can follow that if it is very thin lumber, then the miller is wasting a lot of wood just to make the thin material. A band saw, which is mostly used now, would cut less than 1/8" per cut.

The voltage regulator on the mill tractor stopped working and that meant the tractor battery went dead. The new regulator cost $14.75 and the problem is solved. Those units had small flat springs in them that closed contacts when the generator needed to charge. When the contacts wore out from use, the unit stopped working.

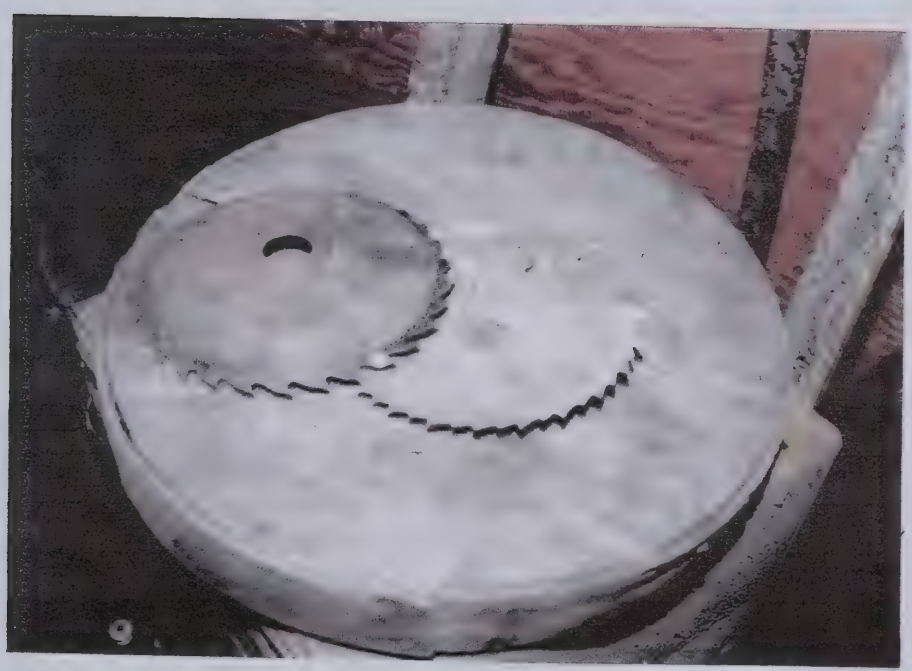
The black 1947 Chevrolet truck is getting tired, and the small spider gears in the rear axle differential gave out. The replacement parts were purchased and installed for a cost of $61.10. It is getting a lot of miles and is 15 years old.

The PE-1405 pallets for Dana are moving at the rate of about 300 a month, and the 1402 pallets were lost at the end of march, due to someone putting in a lower bid. The 1404 pallet tops have been going at a rate of 150 per month. There are variables, based on what products they are making at the time. Homer purchased timber from two other farmers in the DeKalb Co. area. Norm Gerig has again been helping Homer with the work. He delivered a load of pallets, spent all day working in the woods with Homer, and they used the Terra Trac in the woods and Norm hauled it to the job site.

Homer, gets notice that Indiana has passed a law that requires business to collect sales tax on items and material that is being sold the the final purchaser, starting on July 1st. This will not apply to most of the customers. The farmers can fill out an exemption slip.

I, George , have been working part time, since school is out, in the sawmill, building pallets and driving the truck to deliver pallets. Three paychecks and $100.00 total.

2 curved saw blades, for cutting a circular wood barrel head,
Homer was tasked with sharpening them.



The flat belt that had been running the sawmill with, came with the grain separator that Homer purchased in February of 1946 and was 6" wide. It had been broken 2-3 times at the joint or "lacing". Each time it broke, it got a little shorter and now the tractor was getting closer to the driven pulley. At least one time the belt came off the pulley because the saw became stuck in the cut, from feeding too fast or being too loose. It is also possible that the belt was too narrow and slipped. The belt was also becoming frayed on the edges. Homer knew that Sears was still selling the belting in various widths and would also be endless, or be sewed and glued, for the endless feature. He ordered the belt 8" wide and the length he desired. It came in at the store and he went and picked it up. The belt cost $106.76 and shipping was $3.80. Speaking of belts, he went to an auction and purchased belting, as listed on the sales slip and it was probably in 4-6" wide flat belts.

There were 3 boxes of staples purchased for the manufacture of pallets and tops. These boxes usually held about 20,000 staples in each box. The 3 boxes cost $58.50

A week later, I got to see the steam sawmill in operation at Harper's, East of New Haven. My father had taken me along to get some lumber, that had been sawed there for our pallet making. The sawmill operation was a thing of wonder to me because, it was so quiet and smooth. The carriage moved so smooth. The reason for this was, the wheels on the carriage were 6-8" in diameter, and I was used to wheels that were 2" in diameter and had no roller bearings. Our mill was operating with a maximum of 20 horse power and the steam mill had at least 40 H P. I do not remember what brand of traction engine it was, but probably either Port Huron, Case, or Russell. I was 18 at the time and this was impressive to me. My father was already thinking about steam as power for a sawmill, in the future.

The Terra-Trac fork lift had been used for a few months, and the engine was not a good as it had seemed early on. It would need a complete engine overhaul. The total cost for the be-build was $200.00, and would include new pistons, bearings, camshaft, valves, valve seals, and a gasket set. The plate that was installed noting the boring and under sizing of the crankshaft noted that the bearings would be .020 thousandths of an inch under, and the cylinders would be bored to .040 thousandths over size. The engine had already been through this procedure for both at .010 and .020 in 1957. It had been used a lot before the sawmill received it.

I have been working some each week, 20-25 hours, during the summer, as "day labor", meaning I will have to fill out my tax papers and pay the taxes that are due next year.

The other drive wheel, bearings and shaft on the Terra-Trac have worn out, and will need to be replaced, the key was was the culprit this time and the new wheel , shaft, and seal were replaced . Homer purchased some heavy duty tools for the work, a 3' pipe wrench, a large adjustable wrench ad a couple of large sockets. When you buy used equipment and have already spent quite a bit on it you usually bite the bullet and finish re-building until the worn pieces are all replaced.

Two other farmers in the Woodburn area are selling timber to Homer. He has been hauling from those locations. There has been some farm lumber as well as pallet business. One of the farmers was Richard Myers, who had sold timber to the mill before and Homer had also sawed lumber for some of his building projects.

A new chain saw has been purchased. It is a professional model, 740 McCollough. The new chain saw is equipped with a primer to start the fuel flowing, for starting, a pump oiler lever for the bar oil, both are accessible from the running position. It does not have a compression release, so it needs a sudden, solid pull to start. It is a heavy saw at 23-1/2 pounds. The displacement is 6.04 c.i.d, or 95 cc. It is equipped with a 24" bar. I have the original owners book for it yet.

There was a project going on in Auburn, on South Main St. The Barney Massa Construction Co. was under contract to build a large new section of sanitary sewer down Main Street from 9th. St. to the curve at the South end of the street, and it would include all of the side streets along the way. Auburn is built in an area that has a quite high water table under the surface. In a lot of locations, water is present in the soil a close as 10 feet down. The sawmill involvement came when the construction was deep. They needed to have a way to hold the dirt back during the construction process. Someone in the Auburn sewer department knew that the sawmill could make the lumber that was needed, and the company contacted Homer. The material needed to be 2x6,8,10,12"wide and from 18-24 feet long. Homer ended up sawing 4,500 board feet of the material, for the project.

Homer has been making some projects in the evenings, and this included the use of the band saw, planer and the jointer he had purchased earlier. One of those projects was to build some Adirondack,type chairs. He did not have a pattern or instructions. He did have some pictures and that would work. The first one he made was proportioned correctly except that it was 35 inches wide in the seat area. He then built one to in the correct proportion, to put on our front porch.

I was in the "shop" class in my senior year of school and also made one of these chairs. This was my first experience with small power tools other than the lathe a few years earlier. I took a lot of time figuring my lumber and using all the tools to prepare it. I chose to use screws to assemble the chair, and it turned out quite well. The only thing that was not as planned was, I measured wrong on one of the pieces and the middle back board was 3" short. I did not have permission to replace it, as it was an as built project, for the purpose of grading.

Homer purchased logs from Gerald Moore, for $15 per 1,000 board feet of scaled volume. This would have been a relative of the other man with the same last name at the little community of Moore, Northeast of the sawmill. Another timber owner, Paul Inlow, sold timber to Homer and there was a written agreement with this one. Homer wrote on the slip that, "I agree to pay Paul Inlow $700.00 for hatchet marked trees in woods- balance of poorer trees at $15 per "M" or 1,000 board feet. Take no trees under 16" at stump." And with a hand shake, that was agreed.

I am beginning to learn to use the chain saw, for cutting logs to length at the sawmill. Early on, the need to become skilled at not cutting into the dirt with the saw was a large challenge. The next was to learn to sharpen the chain after it became dull. My father never used any kind of guide to sharpen the chain saws, he did it all free hand, and I did also. Kind of frustrating sometimes, as I had to learn to be steady and at the correct angle. A sharp file was very helpful too, and sometimes there wasn't one.

The Par-Tee Co, sent notice of change of the sizes of their material, for pump bases. The materials would be 1x6x35-1/4", 1x4x20-1/4". Things change rather quickly sometimes, and this was one of those times. The purchase order was dated 11-13-1963 and the bottom of the order said need by November 20. That was one week and it usually was 1-2 days from mailing until it was received. There was a note on the order that said "please acknowledge and give a shipping date."

The tractor carburetor problem has not been completely solved by the use of the heat lamps, and they are always in danger of them being broken. Homer has taken the view that a forced air fuel oil heater might work. A rack was built, it will support the heater, and the one he had purchased to help keep the workers warm, is now in the position to heat the carburetor. It worked very well, and was not in danger of getting broken, or setting something on fire. Homer buys a new heater, a Knipco, model 88, for $143.75, for the workers to use.

The 1952 Chevy truck is in need of a different engine, and the used one that is installed is a 1954, that has been rebuilt and is ready to be installed. The installation charge is $130.00., done by Hubert Provines, who was a mechanic for the Auburn street department by day, and worked on other peoples mechanical needs evenings and weekends. Homer purchased 10 gallon of 10-w-30 motor oil, at the local Farm Bureau store for $13.36. He was also in Ft. Wayne, to buy 2 boxes of mill saw bits and 1 box of staples for pallet making.

In December, timber purchased from Cecil Friend, on C.R. 39, South of C.R. 62, and he also needed some lumber from his logs. Glen Snyder, of C.R. 28 East of Waterloo, also sold timber to the mill. I had mentioned that Homer had talked to the owner of J-Box, a maker of pallets, on South Indiana Ave in Auburn. He also purchased a large quantity of 2x4's in mixed lengths for runners in his pallets, toward the end of the year.

Homer went to see Mr. Brenneke to settle up for the last of the timber he had purchased from him. When they were all done, just before Homer was ready to leave, Mr. Brenneke's son came out where they were and said, "I have a gift for you for Christmas". He handed Homer a candle holder for decoration, that had been made from a small section of Sycamore limb about 2" in diameter. It was about 12" long and had a red ribbon around it. There was also a nice little plastic décor piece attached, with little berries and Holly leaves on it. For legs, he had used two 3/8" diameter pieces of wood, about 3" long, that were nailed on.

The year ends with a group of 44 different farmers and others purchasing either lumber from the mill or having their own logs sawed. There were 10 or 12 that made multiple purchases. Homer was charging 9 cents a board foot for lumber sawed from the sawmill logs. The sawing of logs brought by others, was a cost of 2-1/2 cents. These two types of lumber brought in a total of $1,800.00 for the year.

Middle man Clifford Hankey was still having the mill saw the two sizes of blocking and then re-selling them to Hendrickson. The mill was making pallets for them and selling them direct to Hendrickson. Mr. Coplin, the middle man for New Haven Wire and Cable, purchased 283 pallets and the mill received $341.95 for them.

The pallet production for Dana Corporation was a total of 4,362. The lid production was, 2,600, and the small stakes and blocking was, 4,600 pieces. The 1405 expendable pallet for Dana was the largest production of a type of pallet at 3,900 pieces. The Par-Tee Co. Material was 1,350 gas pump bases made.

Gross income for the year was about $12,500, for the sawmill.

Winter makes some interesting situations, when the snow blows and drifting occurs. The sawmill was located on a dead end road and there were only 2 houses on it. The road was not as wide as most of the other roads in the county. Almost no one had 4 wheel drive then. Drifts could be 20-24 inches deep. Most of the time, one of the trucks could just plow through the drifts. That only made it worse, because then the snow would fill in the tracks, and pack harder. Most of the time, the county road crew did plow the road during the day after the initial storm, but then the sides were higher and the snow would drift in again. Occasionally, my father had to call them to get it plowed. He finally found and installed a blade on the Terra-Trac and then he could clear the road if needed. The blade was used to clear the snow in the mill driveways and log yard as well.

Both of the middle men, were purchasing either pallets or blocking all year long and I will make final comments at the end of the year, about their purchases.

I am helping with the pallet making in the evenings and Saturdays, working 6-10 hours per week during the school year. My nailing skills have improved and I am actually enjoying working with wood and learning what some of the wood looks like, and beginning to be able to identify the species, by their grain patterns.

1964

The first order of 1964 was delivered to Dana on January 2nd, and it was 200 of the 1405 expendable pallet. The price was $1.15 per piece, and This is a decrease of 5 cents from the original price. I do not have any paper work that notes the reason for the change. Two hundred more were delivered before the end of the month. 400 hundred of the 1404 tops were delivered in January, and 1,000 of the 1x4x36" slats, were also. There were 7 different days in the month that these deliveries were made.

The 1948 CO-OP tractor, that had been bought at auction is getting an engine overhaul, and will be the log skidding tractor, when it is finished. The repairs were done by Hubert Provines and the cost was $150.66. The teeth for the sawmill that were purchased from Allen Steel Supply were $16.28, which is more than some of the other supply houses were charging, but that was where Homer was when he purchased more staples for the pallets, and they also sold the bits. Save a trip to another store.

He sold 3 loads of high grade logs to the Yaney sawmill for a total of 2,974 board feet for $208.18. They had been cut from a woods near the Ohio line. There were 3 farmers who purchased lumber during January.

Timber was purchased from Clayton Mitchner, and he also wanted some lumber sawed for himself. The charge for the hauling and sawing of his lumber was $43.12, and the timber Homer got and sawed for sawmill use was$56.17. There was more timber to cut and haul, that Homer had purchased, and he settled up for all of it later. During some of the cutting of trees, Homer got his saw in a pinch position and damaged the bar. There was a slip for replacement of the tip of the bar, and straightening the bar. The total cost of the repair was $35.64.

He also bought timber from William Hoeppner, of Woodburn. The agreement was, "$25 per thousand feet log scale, for any I can use from the woods." Timber was also purchased from Cecil Friend as well.

February 21st. Homer sustained a gash above his eye, when a limb sprung as it was cut, stitches!

The limb that hit Homer did not knock him out. It gave him a headache and he was able to walk to his vehicle, and drive to the doctors office, to get it stitched up. Of all the years he worked in the woods, that was the only time that he got hurt, thankfully.

A couple of days later, he was in Fort Wayne to buy 50 pound of 2-1/2 inch pallet nails. February had a total of 5 people that purchased lumber or had some sawed from their logs. There were five trips to Dana with pallets, and a little slab wood was sold. The New Haven, Par-Tee, and Hendrickson products were continuing to be made. Early in March, he purchased lumber from Wible Sawmill and lumber co., in South Milford, Indiana. 1,600 ' of 1/2" x4" material and 800' of 2x6" material. I think that the 2x6 material was large enough that he could rip a 2x2 off the pieces for the blocking he was selling to Dana and use the remaining 2x4 for pallet runners.

Allen Steel and Supply was the company he had purchased the staple gun from and when there were issues with the gun he had to take it to their shop most of the time to have it worked on. They then charged only for the parts that were used to do the repair work. On this trip the gun needed to have the driver piston replaced and the cost was $7.15. It was a hassle when you had a product to produce and the gun was not working.

Homer received a letter from Mr. Coplin, the middle man for New Haven Wire and Cable, asking if he could make a new pallet and all the specifications. It would be a 4-way entry pallet with 9 blocks that were 3-1/2x 4x3-3/4", instead of 3 runners for support. The size would be 32"x42", with 2 and 3" wide slats on the top and 3 pieces of 3" on the bottom. Homer quoted him a price of $1.05 each. March 23rd. there is a slip for 50 of these pallets, at the price that had been quoted.

Homer bought 9 trees from Omer Carnahan for $170.00 in mid March, and it does not say what they were, but they were better than pallet grade based on the amount paid. The smaller of the 2 cut off saws he was using to cut the material for pallets to length, needs a new motor and that requires new pulleys to get the speed correct. Homer has gone away from the cast pot metal type pulleys, and is now using the pressed steel ones with the changeable hubs. They have a six sided cut out in the center of one half of the pulley to hold the center in place while the nut is tightened. This is a mid-grade type pulley and was used a lot on small horse power motors, and the tool they drove. The one new pulley and 2 hubs cost $4.85.

Homer had a good reputation, because there are several occasions that the timber was paid for after product had been made and there was money available to pay for the trees. The cash flow was still slow sometimes. The Paul Inlow timber job where Homer agreed to pay $15 per thousand feet for the unmarked trees is paying out well. Homer has taken a total of 12,642 feet of timber for pallet material. This would include a lot of trees that other buyers would not be interested in. A lot of Cottonwood, rough Basswood and Maple, Elm, and rough Hickory, Beech, and even Willow.

Mr. Coplin picked up 30 of the original 23" size pallets he had been getting and then Homer delivered the other 70 to New Haven, on March 28th. I think Mr. Coplin's truck broke down and he needed them delivered.

Homer has decided to try a nail driving gun from the Spotnail Co, through the Allen Steel and Supply Company. The trial use period is for 4 days, and the price of the unit is $141.60, returnable when the gun is returned.

The electric welder that Homer has been using, is the re-worked aircraft generator, turned into a welder. He has been looking for another one. What he purchased was a Lincoln "Buzz Box", that has a range of 40 to 220 Amps. The one he has been using was a Direct Current model and he wanted to go to A C again. He also needed to have the tractor available for other things other than the welder. He spent $125.00 for the welder. This is the welder that I learned to weld with and I started at this time.

The end of March found there had been 8 people who purchased lumber from the mill, and all were under $10.00 of material bought. The two middle men were quite busy and added their part to the mill activities. The Dana pallet deliveries were made 9 times with 400 of the 1405 pallets, 200 of the 1404's, and 1,500 blocking pieces of two sizes. The amount of the various pallets, tops and blocking depends on which products they are making, and it changes with the seasons and the model years.

The slip does not identify what the steel purchased from the junk yard really was, it just says, 165 pounds of used steel @ $0.05 per pound. The total amount was $8.25 plus tax of 17 cents. Everyone was now paying 2 cents on the dollar of sales tax for goods that were not for re-sale. I still remember when I was really small, that Ohio had a 3% sales tax and Indiana did not have any sales tax. As I write this in 2019, Indiana has a 7% sales tax.

Homer did a check on the scaled amount of lumber he felt he would get from a tract of timber. The tract was that of Paul Inlow, who I mentioned earlier. It also took into account the amount of money per 1,000 board feet he said he would pay for the timber,which at this time was $25 per one thousand feet. The total scale amount was 28,915 feet of scale at the mill after the timber had been cut to logs. The final part of the equation was what the actual payment per 1,000 feet, it was $24.27 per thousand, meaning that the estimated amount of timber and the scaled amount were very close. Harry Strong has been hauling quite a lot of the timber that has been hauled to the mill. Both he and Homer are cutting.

The sawmill is now adding the stencil, "New Haven Wire & Cable" on all of the pallets that Mr. Coplin is re-selling. The company supplied the stencil and Homer made up the brush to do it with. He took a regular 2" wide paint brush and cut it off to about ¾" long and that made the bristles stiff, which was what was needed to do the job. Initially, he tried to use a spray can and that did not work, because the paint was too runny. I do not think there was any change to the price Mr. Coplin was paying.

Homer was still buying a lot of timber in the Woodburn area, and he was having Mr. Harper saw some of the logs from these jobs, for lumber for the sawmill pallets. There were 3 different times in April, that he sawed lumber for the mill. The cost for the sawing was $126.18, and I am sure most of it was 2x4 stock for pallet runners.

On the 15th. Of April, Dana Corp sent a change order for the 2x2x50" blocking pieces, they are now to be 51" long, with the note that they can use any of the shorter ones that were already cut.

Logs were purchased from Oscar Basse, and I believe they were mostly Cottonwood, because his property was near Cedar Creek, in Southern DeKalb Co. The check says, for logs, and was for $170.00

The chainsaw needed a new tip on the bar, and at that time it was replaceable. Cost was $13.36. The carburetor on the red truck is in need of a new valve and seat at a cost of $2.19. There was a flat tire on one of the trucks, and that repair cost $2.00.

There were seven lumber customers for April, and all were local, with the average cost of material they purchased around $20.00 each. The pallet production was a total of 500, of the 1405's, and 1,460 tops and stakes combined, for Dana. This production was delivered in 6 trips to the company. Harry Strong and his brother-in-law, Ralph Hose are doing quite a lot of cutting, skidding of logs and hauling. Homer will still cut and haul if needed, but he is not doing all of it now. Most of the small timber cuts, and those that are further away, Homer is still doing.

May begins with Mr. Coplin ordering 200 pallets for his company, in three different sizes. He picked them up over a 3 week period, ending on May 21st. Dana Corp, continues to use around 500 a month of the 1405 pallets, plus other materials.

My mother and father have been discussing the vehicle situation, and have decided that they are going to purchase a new vehicle. They ordered a new V W "beetle" on May 9th. One of the reasons, was that there were times that all three of us wanted to go somewhere, and that left my father driving one of the trucks from the mill. The V W will be able to get about 20 miles per gallon, on average, compared to the other vehicles at around 8 to 11 m p g. They also wanted something that was more dependable.

The pallet nail gun was tried out and it was returned, without purchasing. Homer, was not satisfied with the performance of the gun. More 2-1/2" pallet nails were purchased on 5-11, at a cost of $20.74 for 100 pounds of nails. Allen Steel and Supply Co, Inc. has moved from New Haven Ave., to 4621 Executive Blvd., and is now much more accessible for the sawmill. Homer purchased saw teeth and a grinding wheel, for grinding out the gullets of the saws that do not have insert teeth. This would include the large cut off saw and the top saw blade, that was the original mill saw blade. The new grinding wheel should last well, as it is a carbide type wheel, meaning that it is harder, and will not wear as fast as a regular grit wheel.

The new Volkswagen "beetle" arrived on May 18th., and it was a color called Sea Blue, which is a medium blue and had a gray interior. It had the 40 horse engine, and the final cost was $1,815.97.

I graduated from high school on May 17th., and did not have any idea what I wanted to do after school. My parents and I had not discussed that, and I had not been one of the kids that had a summer job, other than working for my father. Other ones of my class were going to college, or going to join their parents in farming. Some were going to factory jobs or already were working somewhere. I did work with my father, but it was not every day. I also worked at Roselawn Cemetery, mowing the grass, and learning to dig graves. My father had been involved in the cemetery since he was in school, because it was part of his fathers work and income. The graves were being dug by hand, and I learned that part of the work. I mowed the yard at the home of the man that had the barn moved, but that summer, I did not commit to a permanent job. Another thing that happened was, I decided to grow a goatee beard.

Homer purchased a 1935, 20 foot "pup" semi-trailer from Edward Carper for $50.00. The trailer was old enough that it's brakes were activated by vacuum, rather than pressure air. This was okay, because the Chevrolet truck could be set up to use the engine vacuum to work the trailer brakes. This would give Homer another truck to haul logs and pallets with. The cost of the trailer was $50, or about the amount that would be paid, if it was taken to the scrap yard and sold.

Homer has started using "The Andersons," in Maumee, Ohio. The company originally started as a grain elevator complex, then they branched out into the warehousing of all kinds of merchandise. They had a complete warehouse building that looked like today's Walmart Super Center, and then they added a tire shop and warehouse. Later they added a complete lumber yard and store. Homer liked the ability to purchase oil, batteries, tires, building roofing, nails, and hardware, even though it was in 3-4 different buildings. On June 12th. He bought two 8.25x20-10 ply truck tires for $56.18 each and the tubes for $4.70 each. Tires had not yet been changed to the metric designations, or tubeless tires. The same trip, he bought 5-gallon of gear oil, 10 gallon of motor oil, and some miscellaneous other small items for the exhaust system and and vehicle lighting.

The new VW, was to have an inspection, and oil change at around 1,500 miles and I was to take it to have the service check done. The dealership was Evans Motors Inc, and they were located at 3505 Brooklyn Ave, in Fort Wayne. This was a relatively new experience for me, because I had not driven a lot in Fort Wayne at that time. I waited in the waiting room for the work to be done. The motor oil was changed and they had a few locations to grease. The total for the oil, grease and the labor was $$3.25.

The pallet production for June was about like last month and the lumber for the cheese containers had stopped in late May. The middle man lumber continued to move through the processing. The logs were still rolling in, too.

All of the trucks had either 8.25 wide tires or 9", and Homer was again in Maumee, getting a truck tires on the 21st, and the 29th The trip required about 90 minutes one way and there was the time spent getting the items needed. The prices were quite a bit less than locally, but I doubt it really saved much money, to go there to get merchandise. I am sure it gave Homer time to think while he was traveling.

There were 5 lumber customers in June, and they only spent around $7.00 each on average. All the farmers were busy doing their farm work, and most of the ones that bought lumber that month were not farmers.

I was reading a letter that my grandmother sent to my mother in late June, and she commented that there was going to be a one hundred year, centennial celebration in her town of Orrville, Ohio in August and I wanted to go. I talked it over with my parents and they agreed that I could go. I would fit in by that time, as my whiskers had grown in some and would be longer then. I would be allowed to drive there myself, as I had been there several times with my parents, and knew the way. They were going to let me drive the VW.

Early in July, the 1947 Chevrolet truck broke an axle, and Homer was able to find a used one at the junk yard, for $6.00. The Terra Trac started to leak at one of the radiator hoses and it had to be replaced for $3.78. Mr. Coplin got 200 pallets, 100 each of 23"x23", and 24"x36".

The timber from the Hoeppner woods North of Woodburn, was better than most and there were several loads of Oak and Sugar Maple logs that were sold to the Yaney sawmill. They were being made into grade lumber for cabinet making.

I had been with my father several times to The Andersons, when he purchased materials and toward the end of July, I was sent to pick up motor oil and a battery. He would send a signed check and I would write in the amount. This was the first of many trips to Maumee, Ohio, by myself.

The end of July brought my first taste of hauling logs through heavier traffic. The trip will begin North of Woodburn, and followed now old U.S. 24 to the West edge of New Haven, and then joined what is now road 930, around to Lima Rd, going North and turn right on Cook road about 1/8 mile on the North side. The Yaney sawmill was our destination. My father was driving the 1952 Chevy with the 20' semi-trailer and I was following about 300 feet back, with the 1947 Chevy straight truck. We had been on 24 for about 2-3 miles and were about directly North of Woodburn school on 24 when I look in my mirror and see a pick-up truck, approaching at a high rate of speed behind me. The area where we were was narrow and there was no berm along the Eastbound lane, and only maybe 6 feet of berm on our side. About 4' from the berm on the Eastbound lane was the beginning of the slope of the old Erie Canal. The pick-up passed me like I was sitting still and pulls in , then decides to go around my father. I am watching the pick-up and evidently he did not see the semi coming toward us, when he pulled out. The semi did not slow down and Homer saw he was going for it and slowed down at the right time for the pick-up to pull in with about 25' left. When we got to the sawmill with the logs my father said he thought we would all be involved in the situation. Thank GOD were were spared and nothing was harmed, and it was a good learning experience for me. Always be aware of the circumstances around you.

On August 12, Homer was in Fort Wayne, at National Mill Supply Co, picking up saw teeth, 2 dozen red lumber crayons, and 2 more Lufkin #524 lumber scale folding rules. The saw teeth are still $14.80 per 100, the lumber crayons were $2.40 a dozen, and the rules were, $1.80 each. He also went to Allen Steel and Supply Co.,Inc. He purchased 1 carton of staples, 3- male end air connector fittings for the staple guns. Also 1 dozen mill bastard files, 10" long, with 2 round edges. This is a legitimate description for the files. He also bought a band saw blade, 10 teeth per inch, which is a very fine cutting blade for thin and delicate work. The staples were $$27.60, the air fittings were 35 cents each, the Files were $$11.20 per dozen, and the band saw blade was $3.97. The band saw blade was ordered as being 11'-1" long, which is 2" shorter than I order for it now. I believe that the rubber bands that were on the wheels of the band saw were thinner then than the ones I am using now.

Homer purchased logs from Mrs. John Knox, and also a chain binder, for a total of $56.00. In the process of the conversation between the two, I think she probably mentioned that she had a chain binder that her husband had used and he had passed away and she did not need it now. Homer also purchased logs from Elvin Fordham, guaranteeing him $500, for 20,000 ' of marked timber or $25 per thousand feet of scale, when the logs were scaled, which ever was higher. The scale was more than the , as they were scaled at 28,479 feet. So when it was done he paid about $700.00 for the timber. The Fordham timber had a lot of high quality Oak and Ash, that he sold it to Yaney lumber company.

On the 20th. Homer bought a 1951 Chevrolet 1-1/2 ton truck with no bed from Cecil Brown, who lived near the corner of now Co. Rd. 61 and 40. At the time Mr. Brown was growing potatoes and this truck had been replaced with a newer one. The truck cost $100.00, and would be perfect for a replacement engine for one of the other Chevy trucks Homer owned at this time.

The trip to my grandmother's for the Centennial, was begun by my parents telling me I could take their almost new VW beetle to Orrville, Oh to visit and be part of the celebration. It was 205 miles and the only location that was 4 lane was a 5 mile section at Mansfield, all the rest went through all the towns on the route. The route was from our home to Hicksville, Oh, then South on St. Rd. 49 to U.S. 30 and East to the road to the left into Orrville. I had been this way with my parents many times and knew the route very well. It was a good week and I had a good time, and the return trip went well too.

There were 13 farm lumber customers in August and they spent an average of $18.50 each. One of the customers needed dry Basswood and it needed to be planed. Homer was beginning to have stock of several types available for his customers.

The pallet sales for Dana were slower than last month, with 5 trips to the company. There were 1,500 shipping slats and stakes. The pallets and tops accounted for 600 units. The two middle men got their pallets again this month.

Edward Carper sold some logs to Homer, 900 bd. ft. at 4 cents per foot by log scale, for $35.68. On Sept 9th., Earl Coplin got 100 of the pallets for in plant use, they were the 23" square size. Arthur Johnson is working part time at the time helping make pallets and off-bearing at the mill, as well as cutting up the slab wood.

Homer had been talking to other people about the 6 volt starting systems on the Chevrolet trucks and had discovered that he could purchase an 8 volt battery and use it instead of the original 6 volt one to start the truck and it would not damage the starter or the generator systems. It did require a resistor in the line and he purchased that at Tractor Supply Co. He installed the new battery and it did improve the starting of the truck. Gasoline for the mill is now 27 cents a gallon, with the 10 cents of state and federal taxes.

The endless belt Homer had purchased from Sears, to run the mill with did not stay endless very long. It had been sewed and the joint wore out where it was sewed. Homer took it to a company in Fort Wayne, PULMOR, where they vulcanized the joint together with a heat process. It cost $20.00. About the same time the sawdust drag drive stopped working. It was a pair of gears that were at right angle to each other in a cast mounting. One of the gears lost the key and key way that held it in place on the shaft. The gears had been the final drive for the straw spreader, from the first Allis-Chalmers combine he had. He was able to go to Butler to a dealer and get a new gear and key for $3.70.

Homer ordered 2 loads of bank gravel, which means it had not been screened and was probably yellow-brown in color, and he would use it for packing gravel on the drive at the buildings. The same pay slip says he also ordered number 5 gravel, which varied in size from 1/2" to 1+" in size and had been screened and washed. The Bank gravel was $24.00 and the #5 was $43.28 for 16.4 tons.

I made the trip to The Andersons, and picked up 15 gallon of two types of motor oil with the VW. It came in 5 gallon metal, paper covered square cans. It cost $12.64 for the 3 cans of oil.

Earl Coplin picked up 85 pallets of 2 sizes for the month. There were 16 lumber customers for September and one, Ronald Holmes, bought enough to build the framing for a shed to be attached to his barn. He lived directly East of the mill on Co.Rd. 47. There was a total of $316.00 for September.

For several months, Homer has been having Perry Bennett, come and clean up at the mill. This consisted of cleaning the areas that bark and other trash accumulated. One of those locations would have been the area where the logs were rolled in to be sawed. There would have been loose bark and dirt off the logs there, and the sawdust from the cut off saws, and the edger would have needed to be cleaned. This job would have been 2 times a month.

There were 600 pallets and tops delivered to Dana this month and 1,500 blocking pieces. There is no record of sales to the Hendrickson middle man for the month.

Homer has started on the venture of building another addition to the mill building. It is to the East of the last addition and will form a T shape with the last section that was built in 1960. This is the section that my present work shop with heat and A C is in. It will also attach to Homer's first work shop to the North. The framework is up at this point in the year and he has purchased the metal roofing at Canfield Lumber Company. This company was located where there is a lumber yard now, just south of Huntertown on Lima road. The metal roofing cost $292.00. (2019)

Earl Coplin purchased 100 of the light weight 23" square pallets for his company. Homer is charging him 55 cents each for the pallets. Homer has been working on the Elvin Fordham timber tract and there has been a lot of quality Sugar Maple and Oak that was delivered to Yaney lumber Co.

I have been sent to Citizens Lumber Co. To pick up some items for my father. He has given me a list to work from and some of the items were previously ordered and were ready. There were 2 window frames for the house that had been manufactured, and 2 replacement storm windows complete with frame. He also wanted 2 hammer handles. When I was there I had the idea to get an 8 foot step ladder. The old 6' one we had been using was really loose and in tough shape, it also would be nice if it was taller. So I picked out a 8' ladder for $18.60 and brought it home. When my father saw it he said, "What do we need that for?" I replied that I felt it was needed. His next comment was "You had a list and you did not ask if you could get the ladder." Lesson learned, and he did not make me take it back. The ladder is still in use as I write this. We had been wearing safety glasses to nail the pallets and for any of the sawing work we were doing. The glasses had been used to the point that you could scarcely see through them. I had clearer thinking after the ladder experience, to ask if we could get some new safety glasses. The next time Homer was in Fort Wayne he went to Schlatter Hardware and purchased some new safety glasses.

Homer is beginning to preorder the staples that are used to make some of the pallets. 10 boxes are ordered at a time and the agreement is that they will be picked up within 90 days, as needed.

There were 14 lumber orders in October and the average was $15.00 each. The pallet orders for Dana were 700 and the blocking pieces were 1,500. The designation for Dana has changed, it is now officially: Salisbury Division, Dana, Auburn Plant.

The Hendrickson middleman is ordering 2x4 blocks again, and will be picking them up in November.

Homer purchased his first dump truck on November 6th. , it is a 1950 Ford F-5 series. The truck had previously been used by Knight Landscape Co., of Fort Wayne. It was equipped with an overhead boom that could be used to transport trees with a winch powered off the transmission, by gear and chain drive. This method of tree transport was just before the hydraulic potting trucks that are used now. It had under mounted toolboxes and a 4 speed transmission with a two speed rear axle. It was powered by a V-8 "flat head" engine. This truck would have many uses at the sawmill. Hauling slab wood to customers, stone and gravel hauling. The winch would be used a lot a little later in the sawmill to move many things. The house was still being heated with wood and this would make that process a little easier, by dumping the wood at the basement window, to throw it in.

1950 Ford  dump truck, which I did not sell in the auction.

Homer went to The Andersons, where he bought motor oil, bolts, reflectors for the trucks,pulleys, a motor for the smaller cut off saw, and a 50 pound box of pole barn nails. These items from the general merchandise warehouse. He then went to the tire and lube warehouse section and purchased 2-8.25x20,10 ply truck tires, and 1 tube, with a total of $120.64.

November 18th. was a special day, Homer ordered a brand new stationary power unit for the sawmill. The unit was purchased at Hart's Auto Parts, of Cecil, Ohio. My father would never known about this company except for his connection to the people who had lived in the 8'x27' mobile home near the grape vines and the old Pear tree at the farm. When they moved away, they moved to Cecil, and bought a lot to place their home on in that town. My parents visited them many times and discovered the company, known for their engine re-building skills. The unit was a Continental, 6 cylinder, 330 cubic inch displacement. The engine was shipped from Atlanta,Georgia, for a cost of $103.65, which was include in the final price. It was ordered with a fuel pump, and a twin disc clutch, and was to run with a governor to control its speed. The engine was $1,776.82 and it could be ordered with a full set of enclosure, to protect it from the weather, but it was going to be inside a building, and Homer had only the section that covered the radiator area. Homer went to pick it up with his truck.

The timber from the Norbert Brenneke woods, was considerable, and Homer paid over a longer period of time than usual for it. The final payment was on November 24, 1964, and the total amount of board footage was, 12,831 board feet. Harry Strong had been hauling a lot of logs from a property near the Coburn Corner's church at the corner of Co.Rd. 64 and S.R. 101, on the Southeast corner. I have tally sheets for 19 loads of logs totaling an average of 1,550 board feet per load.

The ordering of the new engine for the mill made it necessary to make several changes. One of the first was to order a new main sawmill shaft. The shaft was approximately 12' long and 2-3/16" in diameter. There would also need to be a new pulley for the engine and the shaft, as the mill will now be driven by 4-V belts, rather than a flat belt. The unit will need to have concrete pillars to secure it, and stabilize it. My father had by this time developed all of the skills of a "Millwright", which means they have the skills to figure and properly set up equipment to operate. All of the work to make this project happen was through his planning.

I am not sure when I started to comment about the cotton gloves from Penney's, but they are still the same price for 3 pair at $1.29. Nine pair were purchased in late December.

The Dana pallets for November and December were: 1,500 pallet and tops, and 5,500 blocks and stakes. December total of lumber ordered was $425.00 from 6 customers. Hubert McNamara ordered enough framing to build another addition to his barn. The Par-Tee co. was quite busy and I waited to the year end to report their bases and loose boards. They bought 2,050 pump bases and over 500 lineal feet of 1x3 lumber to use as spacers in shipping. Mr. Coplin bought 1,150 pallets, and Mr Hankey bought 1,880 pieces of blocking for the year.

Homer made a trip to The Andersons on the last day of the year to purchase motor oil and picked up 50 gallon of oil in 5 gallon cans, for $44.70.

The sawmill had a gross income of $15,508. It was a good year and I personally worked some every week except for the week I was in Orrville,Ohio for the Centennial.

In the previous years, for several years, Homer had been using a local accountant to do the taxes at the end of the year. Starting with 1965, he chose to use a complete system of recording the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly records. The companies agents were two men who had joined as "Dever-Miles, accountants, representing "Simplified Business Services, Co," out of New York. All of the years business was then recorded in the heavy duty 6-ring file. At that time the monthly charge for their service was $42.00. This included the once a month accountant coming and checking the records and noting what had to be sent in for the various tax obligations that were required.

There is news from Christmas eve, just past, George Abel has been seeing Frances Wise and he asked her to marry him. She said YES. The understanding was, we would go together to look at rings, and pick out what we agreed on at that time. No dates were set at that time.

1965

I am working for my father but, had not committed to full time at this time. The records indicate that I was working about 30 hours a week at this time. There were a few other men who were working a few hours a week and getting paid day wage. My father was the only full time worker at this time.

Homer has been having Mr. Harper saw lumber for the pallet work because he is getting ready to change the mill to a stationary power unit, and it required removing all of the previous mill shafting and bearings, also changing the support work by pouring new concrete pillars for the unit and the mill to be supported differently. The new shaft, pulleys V-belts and bearings were being ordered and collected and installed. Homer did all the mill wright work, to make sure everything would fit and be in the proper location. This was a major change and upgrade for the sawmill. The concrete for the engine was poured in early January, I can't find the exact date but, there is a date of 1965 scratched into the concrete. The cost of the shaft manufacture plus all the belts, bearings, and pulleys was $419.08

More logs were sold the the Yaney sawmill, adding to the cash flow during this time. There was a bid made for making gas pump bases for the Tokheim Co. in Fort Wayne. Homer went to an auction that had some gasoline tanks on a stand so they would feed by gravity. He purchased 2 tanks, one would be used for the sawmill and the other tank would be only for the trucks. The original tank had been for everything. It would be for private family use only now. Homer is still using the "resaw", to make two pieces of 1" material from 2x4's, and he had separated the feed drive on the machine from the saw and it needed a new V-belt, at a cost of $2.89. The last payment for the timber from Buelah Snyder was made in the amount of $120.00. Harry Strong is hauling logs regularly now. He has been working on a woods on the Southeast corner of County Rd. 64 and St.Rd. 101, their name was Ward.

On January the 13th. I had the privilege of taking the VW to the dealership for it's 12,000 mile check up. It was kind of boring, you deliver the car and they go over it and change the oil and filter and look at any thing that is requested. There is reading material in the waiting room but it does not help much. This time they manually adjusted the brakes to get rid of a squeal. It turned out that driving on the dusty or muddy roads was most of the problem. The labor and materials were $10.68.

Elvert Nichols Logging, is also hauling in some pallet logs, which they and Homer have come to agreement on the price for. The driver is a man nick-named "Hen" Baron, who I liked real well, he had a good attitude. They operated out of the Kendallville area.

The off road gasoline was 17 cents a gallon yet at this time. Now that the fuel is separated for road and off road it is easy to keep track of the fuel for the mill.

January ends with a number of notes about the pallets this month. Dana, used 800 pallets and tops and 1,000 2x2x51" long. The 1404 pallet top is 51" long and 40 " wide, and the long way is 3 pieces of 1x4x51", which have been square cut at 90 degrees on the end and when banded, it was causing the band to break in shipment, when there was too much tension on them. The solution was to cut the 1x4's at a 45 degree angle to make a softer corner for the banding. This cutting process meant that the 1x4 was cut off to length, and then held up in the air with the left hand at a 45 degree angle and re-cut to get the first end , then rotated 180 degrees and then the angle cut was repeated. We made 15 tops as a trial to see if it was going to be satisfactory, and it worked very well. This change required all of us that cut these pieces to hold the piece at the proper angle and then cut it off. It was a little awkward for a while, but we became used to doing it and did that maneuver for the next 12 years to make these pieces.

There were 6 custom and farm lumber customers in January, averaging about $20.00 each. There was a request from Dana, for a sample shipping container to be made for export to South America. It was to be for one time use and if it was satisfactory, there would be an order for quite a number of them. The base would be the present 1405 expendable one time use pallet. It would have a 1/2" plywood box built, attached to the sides of the pallet, to the specified size, which was an inside measurement of 34-1/4" square and 24-1/4" high and then inside corner stakes and the ends joined to the sides. This meant that the pallets were actually a little larger than the standard 1405. The top would be made with overlapping edges to close the box, with small cleats to keep it aligned on the inside. Homer purchased the plywood for the sample from "Wakefield Cashway," which was part of present day R. P. Wakefield in Waterloo, Indiana. These boxes were stapled together and for shipment they would be steel banded, making them secure. The designation for it would be PE-1420 or export shipping box. The initial cost was set at $10.00 each. The sample was delivered on February 1. I personally never made any of these boxes, Homer made all of them, himself.

Harry Strong has been hauling logs and helping some in the mill and this has become his income when he is not farming, and he is being paid bi-weekly on a regular basis as a contract owner-operator of a logging business. Homer is still cutting some and hauling , but not nearly as much. The necessity of being at the mill and doing the paperwork of an owner is becoming more a part of his life now. The mill is getting logs cut and hauled by Elvert Nichols logging, from a farmer Homer bought timber from. Mr. Nichols owned a tandem axle straight truck and has a hired driver, a Mr. Barron.

Gene Wilson purchased lumber to build a wagon, I don't know whether it was for hay, silage or grain, but it was winter or the off season for a wagon, but a good time to work on it. The sawmill carriage requires a small middle weight pull spring to hold the pawl that engages to move the headblocks forward and back. This spring is stretched every time the blocks are moved either forward or back and gets extra stretch every time when the blocks are changed from forward to reverse and back. The gear that the pawl engages is about 8" in diameter and has about 4 teeth per inch, around it's circumference. The little spring was about 1/16" diameter wire and 2-1/2" long and 3/8" diameter. It cost $1.10 , not much but the mill will not operate without it. The one that was being replaced had been broken 2-3 times, and stretched and re-bent and was now of no further use.

Par-Tee Company sent a purchase order for their support blocking for shipping inside the heavy paper board box used to ship the re-built gasoline pumps. They also ordered bases, 100 bases and 400-1x3x55-1/2", 200-1x3x21-3/8", and 100-1x3x17" long.

The middle man at Hendrickson is still purchasing blocking that the company needs, and it consists of 3x3x8' long and 2x4's that are 18" long. They are being ordered about every 3 weeks and he picks them up and delivers them. The sawmill is making their pallets and we deliver them to the company.

Homer had a conversation with Gene Wilson about the wagon lumber that was sawed recently. Homer is going to build the wagon floor on the running gear. The running gear is the wheels, axles, and the tie metal to connect the front and rear wheels. There is a list of the materials that he purchased for the job. Two sizes of lag bolts, three sizes of carriage bolts, and a box of wood screws. The material cost $10.83.

Dana Corp., sent an order on February 11th. for 10 of the export boxes to be delivered by February 26th. There was a note on the order that the plywood was to be C- D, which means that it was to be a lower quality plywood. I believe that the sample had been a better grade and more expensive, therefor the change in quality.

On the 18th. Of the month, Dana sent a change of purchase order, stating that they want the number of shipping containers increased to total 20, rather than the original amount of 10 pieces, still to be delivered before the 26th. On the 19th. the plywood was picked up from Wickes Lumber, just a little South of Huntertown. He purchased 25 sheets of 1/2" C-D plywood and it cost $103.60. While he was near Fort Wayne, he made use of the trip to pick up more staples and nails for the air powered nailer and staplers. On the 22nd, he went to Auburn to the Farm Bureau Co-Op and purchased 2 more sheets of plywood, meaning he had used the 25 and was still short.

A communication from John Harper is dated February 23rd., and it concerns two things. John has been sawing lumber for our sawmill, from logs Homer had delivered there. The other was, that Homer had delivered a quantity of Oak there to be used for some of Mr. Harper's customers. They would split the proceeds of those sales.

There have been 8 lumber customers and they spent a total of $107.00, all small jobs. Mr. Coplin picked up 2 sizes of pallets for his middle man job that amounted to $$165.00 for the month. February was slow for the Dana pallet production. There were only 285 pallets and tops delivered and 1 pallet of 1,000 of the 2x2x51" stakes and the 20 export boxes.

One day about this time, Homer and I are talking and he asks me, "You are planning to get married, do you intend to join me in this venture or are you going somewhere else and get a job?" My comment was, "Yes, I'll join and start working full time". I had been working part time and was not real sure what I wanted to do and had not given much thought to it. I think he was doing his fatherly duty to prod me a little.

Sometime in early February, Homer had sent a request to Tokheim, a gasoline pump manufacturer in Ft. Wayne, and he received a confirmation, that his bid had been accepted. The first order was for 300 pump bases and they were to be delivered the first week of March. These bases were somewhat similar to the ones he was making for Par-Tee Co. The difference was that because they were a newer style, they were a different size and they had locations where there would need to be nails or staples clinched on steel and there were several little angle cut 1-5/8" square pieces a few inches long. The steel clinch plate needed to have several welded parts to support the small blocks in place.

Top two pictures, of "Tokheim" gas pump base, in order top and bottom. The bottom photo is the simple form for the Dana, PE-1405 pallet.

The pump base was to be 25-1/4x37-1/4, with 2 pieces of 1x8x37-1/4. There were 2 pieces of 2x4x23-1/2", that were inset at the ends and sides enough to fasten a heavy cardboard box over the pump. These 2x4's were to be cut at a 45 degree angle to accommodate the box. There were 4 other pieces of 2x2" that were spaced on the 1x8's to evenly support the pump for shipment.

Before the 1x8" pieces could be assembled, each one received a 5/8" diameter hole and there was a countersink on the bottom of the board to mount the pump to the base. The countersink was 1-1/4" diameter. Homer did not hesitate to make his own tools when he could. This 5/8" bit was also the countersink device. He took a 4" long section of ½ inch round rod and a 2 inch piece centered and welded them to make the part, Then went to the grinder and finished it to the size required, of truck spring and made the bit. The truck spring was hard enough that the tool bored the wood parts very well and only a small amount of sharpening was necessary. The tool will be pictured in this story.

The steel plate that was used, came from the junk yard and was 1/4" thick and had a 3/4" welded upright rim around the outside to stabilize the parts. There were several other stub metal spacers welded to the plate to locate the 2x2 pieces. One of the things that made for space saving when shipping these bases was, they could be double stacked on the 2x2 sides, by turning the second one of a stack upside down and off setting it by 4", therefore, a gain of 2/3 of the thickness. Every other one was upside down in the stack.

Because the stacks of the pump bases were going to be a little unstable and would need a pallet under them to load and unload, Homer purchased a banding tool and a roll of 1/2" binding and associated tools to use the banding for a cost of $74.16. The banding would also be used when shipping any blocking in the future.

Now that the mill had a dump truck, Homer went to the Burtzner Bros. and Wilhelm gravel pit on the West side of C.R. 27, just North of U.S. 6 and picked up 5 ton of stone for the mill driveway. The stone was washed #2,screened and washed and was a dollar a ton.

The V-belt that runs the sawdust drag broke and needed a new one. The belt was 195 inches long and cost $7.70. This belt is powered by the new shaft that powers the mill and the shaft that drives the drag is 1" in diameter and is bearing mounted all the way to the top of the pole where there is a set of right angle bevel gears. The 1" shaft had a 24" diameter wood pulley 6" wide that the belt was running on and there will be more about that pulley in the story in the 1968 part of the story.

The sawmill picked up another product for Dana, their # PE-1416, making 1x4"x36" stakes, for 10 cents a piece from native lumber. The order quantity is 1,000. First delivery to be 3-31-1965.

Homer was in Fort Wayne and picked up saw teeth, mill files and Alligator belt lacing. A box of the belt lacing had 12 pieces that were 12" long and usually would last for 3 months or more.

I am beginning to work with the actual sawmill now and an learning to file the main saw teeth and change them with a special tool. I have also been learning to saw lumber, when we are not real busy. It was somewhat challenging at times but I was learning how to saw lumber. Many things to learn, about turning logs to continue to make straight lumber, as well as turning logs with a cant hook and how fast to saw as well as being safe, while doing these things.

The Par-Tee Co., received 100 bases for gas pumps about every 5 weeks. There was an order that required a different size base, this is the result of the pumps they were repairing were probably either older or newer. Just like automobiles, there are changes in the size and where the pumps came from also had an effect on the size. The first delivery of bases to Tokheim went well and they were satisfied with the product.

Cox Cabinet Co., requested delivery of 4,000 board feet of Sugar Maple and Basswood. The maple will be used for cabinet faces and the Basswood will be the secondary wood in drawers in the cabinets, or the sides and backs. The sawmill did not have a dry kiln, so the cabinet company will air dry it for a couple of years before it can be used.

March saw 5 lumber customers and and $75 income from their purchases. The month was slow for Dana, as there was a total of 1,000 stakes and 800 pallets and tops made.

The banding tool is very useful and I get sent to Mossman-Yarnelle Co. To pick up 5-30 pound rolls of ½ inch banding, and 1,000 band clips to seal the band. The total cost was $41.84. These trips to pick up merchandise and deliver pallets were part of my training, which Homer had been doing, up till now. I had been going to Auburn for a while, but the trips to Ft. Wayne enlarged my territory and widened my knowledge of the places we purchased our supplies. I also went to Auburn City Hardware at this time to pick up pallet nails. This means that some of the product was still being nailed by hand with a hammer.

April 11, was my first time to learn about tornadoes. While we at the sawmill did not experience any damage from the series of tornadoes, we did like everyone else in Northeast Indiana, experience the loss of all electricity for several days. We were able to continue to saw lumber, because we could still rip lumber to width with the main mill saw like was done before the edger was installed. All of the equipment that was run by gas power was still operable. At times it was a little dark without lights. Most of the power was restored 24-36 hours.

While the power was off in our area, it was not in Maunee, Ohio, where The Andersons was located. I got sent to pick up supplies there while the power was out, getting general merchandise and 2 truck tires and tubes, on the 13th.

The Dana 1404 top that has been being made is being re-designed and the longer 3/4" runners and being moved to the full length of the cross boards, instead of being inset by 1" from the edges. This created a price increase of 5 cents per top.

Sears Roebuck Co. is still making a nearly 2" thick catalog with all of their products listed. One of the trucks 6 volt ignition coils died and the part was ordered through Sears. It would usually arrive within 2 days of receipt of the order. The sawmill was making the Pine strips to put between the clutches for Dana and Homer had been purchasing the 1x10 or 1x12" lumber from 2 or three different lumber yards. This time it was from Sutherland Lumber Co. They were located about ½ way between fort Wayne and New Haven on the present day road 930. At this time I was asked to go to Fort Wayne and pick up 300- ¼x3" carriage bolts. I do not know if they were for stock or for a project.

There was a purchase of more C-D ½' plywood for more export shipping boxes.

The April production of Tokheim pump bases totaled 800 pieces, and were being stapled together. The Par-Tee bases totaled 320. The ones for Par-Tee, had a size change during this time, the new size was 1/2" narrower and 4" shorter. 200 were the new size. The change required a new form, because they were still going to need the original size as well.

Farm lumber accounted for $145.00 in sales and the larger portion was for long pallets with 1" tops that went to Bob Metcalf for his access to the dog pens. It was the wet season and it was muddy. He needed 18 sections that were 3' wide and 10' long.

The Dana production was 10 export boxes, 2,100 pallets and stakes. 1,000 of the stakes were a new product the mill was making for them, a stake, PE-1422, that was 3/4"x1-1/8"x36" long, from hardwood that we sawed to this size. The charge was 7-1/2 cents a piece.

I went to pick up staples from the supplier, in Fort Wayne. I am in the learning process and I am less valuable, so my father can work with and instruct the others that are working at the mill. The fuel for the mill is now in a separate tank and it makes the whole process a lot easier, no guess work about the amount of fuel used.

Now that the mill is operating all of the equipment with V-belts, it has become necessary to have some of all the belts on hand, for replacement when they wear out. Homer ordered extra belts of the ones that were most likely to wear out, and also several extra bearings also. The total cost for the 13 pieces was $76.67.

The new PE-1422 stakes can't be made of our hardwood unless it is kiln dried, because it will cause the parts to rust. The solution is to purchase 1x10 or 1x12" Spruce or Pine boards that can be cut to the proper size. The first Spruce boards were purchased on May 17th. and sawed and delivered on May 19th.

The mill has been having problems getting the quantity of staples needed to make the pallets. The problem, it turned out was that we were using a type of staple that had no coating, which only a very small percentage of the company's customers used. Our supplier did not tell us this when we were ordering them, originally. These were some cheaper, but relatively unavailable. The solution was to go to the slightly more expensive staple, with the galvanized coating, which was done.

Homer finally got around to running a direct line from the tank to the new power unit that runs the mill. The copper line, filter, and fittings, were purchased at a price of $30.32. From January to now, we had been carrying the fuel in 5 gallon cans and filling the fuel tank of the power unit.

The May, Dana pallets delivered were nearly identical to last month, with the exception of the change to the small stakes. Farm lumber sold to 6 customers, for $130.00 and the Tokheim bases were 2,400 pieces and Par-Tee bases were 100, with 700 mixed length 1x3" pieces shipped, and the 1x3's were going to be cut to the size at the plant, and would have been between 8-12' long.

June starts with 400 pump bases being delivered to Tokheim Co. , on the 1st. Then on the next day a delivery to Dana of 200-1404 tops,an 200-1405 expendable pallets. By this time, we had a system for making the 1405 pallets. The 1-1/2" runners were sorted into sets of 3 by making a quick decision of which of the three pieces was slightly smaller in height when they were placed on a flat surface and physically observed, as the pieces were sitting on the 1-1/2" edge to do this. The smaller height one always went in the middle of the three, so when they were stacked they would be solid and not rock. At this point they were placed in a form to hold them upright and the top boards were laid out to staple the pallet together. Later, it became standard procedure to make sets of the top boards, because they were required to have a maximum spacing of approx 1-3/4" between the boards, but not less than 1-1/4" when finished. This was necessary because the lumber was being sawed to random widths, from 4-12" wide. When only one person was making these pallets, they did all of their own sorting, but when 2 were working, the presorted system worked better, for both the boards and the stringers. It was not uncommon, later, to have high school boys making these pallets and there would be pallets stacked 5' high with sorted parts on them for the boys to work from. One of the workers, would lay out the stringers and top and bottom boards, and the other would nail and stack the completed piece. These pallets were stacked 17 pieces high, which was the maximum height when on the truck also.

Homer purchased a new pair of work shoes from a local man, Kenneth Arnold, who was an independent salesman for Knapp Shoe Co., and would drive a regular route to sell his product. The pair Homer bought were high top 6" and were size 12- EEE, the cost was $15.81.

Perry Bennett was in again on Saturday the 5th, to clean up the log deck area of bark and dirt, the sawdust around the cut-off saw , and the excess bark and dirt in all the walking areas, because at this time it was all dirt floor in these areas.

Harry Strong has been hauling logs, and they are coming from the Co. Rd. 60 and St. Rd. 101 area. Homer went to Allen Steel&Supply Co, and picked up a new staple gun for $195.00, and 1 carton of staples. On the 7th. Delivery was made to Tokheim consisting of 400 more pump bases. On the 8th. Dana received delivery of 500-PE-1414 1x4x36" shipping layer strips. Another trip to Fort Wayne for Tokheim, with 400 pump bases on June 11th. Harry delivered 3 loads of logs on 6-12, and the logs needed to be scaled. He was being paid based on the number of bd. ft. Delivered. Homer did the scaling at this time, but I would be learning to do it very soon. During the month, the logs were coming from 4 different tracts of timber, the above mentioned one and 3 others in the general area of County Roads 47 and 51, a mile south of St. Rd. 8, East of the mill. The owners of the 3 tracts were all neighbors and frequently talked to one another. Some of the logs that arrived at the mill were better than pallet material, and were sometimes sold to other mills, and this was the case now. There were 3 loads delivered to the Yaney mill at Fort Wayne on the 14th. The species delivered were Sugar Maple and Basswood from one of the tracts, and a load of grade White Oak from the mill lot. The 3 loads paid $380.00 gross income.

Dana took delivery of 200- 1405 pallets on Tuesday the 15th. And Tokheim received 400 bases on Friday the 18th.

My father had been talking with Mr. Harper more and it had been suggested that Homer should subscribe to the steam magazine, "The Iron Men Album", which was published in Pennsylvania. He did at a cost of $3.00 for a one year subscription.

On Friday I am sent on a mission to pick up a new hydraulic pump for the Terra-Trac, on Industrial Drive in Fort Wayne. My father would send a check he had signed and I would fill in the amount of the purchase. The pump cost $97.05, and was from Industrial Tractor and Equipment Co. Inc. These trips usually took more than an hour to complete, and I was learning where they were located and broadening my horizons as well.

Saturday the 19th, there was a small farm lumber order picked up and this is usually the day when small things that need repaired and worked on, as well as paperwork is done. At this time there are no deliveries being made on Saturday.

Monday we delivered 400-1404 tops to Dana, and I had been doing some of these trips to Dana. The receiving clerk at the time was Leroy Pence, and he liked to kid me when I came in. I said something to my father about this and he said, he likes you and don't let it get on your nerves. I did not grow up having people kid me and pull my leg, so to speak, so it was different. After getting the slip signed by the clerk, I had to drive to the area where the fork lift would unload the truck. If no lift driver was there, one of the press operators, would take his air gun or chuck and blow across the top of a bolt hole in their machine and it would make a shrill whistle, which was a call for a lift driver. My favorite lift driver was Al Gift. Sometimes there was a load of steel being unloaded, or the lift driver was not readily available, and you got to wait. Usually the wait was less than 15 minutes.

Harry has been bringing logs on a regular basis and has finished 2 of the 4 locations that were mentioned earlier. The mill is busy enough now that Harry is working full time cutting and hauling. On 6-22, I went to Tokheim with 400 more bases and then to pick up staples and got 5 boxes, and went back to the mill. Our account for staples was set up for payment 30 days net or sooner from the date of purchase. On the 24th. another 400 bases were delivered to Tokheim, 2,300 delivered this month.

June 28th. Harry delivered logs to Holmes & Company., Inc. at Columbia City, 4- White Ash, 308 feet at $90 per "M" or 1,000 ft. , 1- Sugar Maple, 147 ft.@$100 per M, and 13 Walnut @ 190 per M., 1,353 feet total and $213.84 for the load. The Walnut were 906 feet of the total.

On the 28th., delivery was made to Dana of 1,000 PE-1416 stakes, and on the 29th., 50 1405's were delivered. At this time the mill did not have a blanket agreement to deliver from a large pre-order, that came later, so we were delivering some small loads at this time.

There were 5 other small farm lumber sales in June. This schedule of June operations is to give a picture of the present work load.

I don't think I was actually sawing with the mill yet, but I was observing what my father did more now and there was a lot to the process. The process went from rolling the log onto the carriage with a cant hook , which required putting 2 short Elm 4x5" timbers in place to get the log to the carriage. Then, being careful not to knock the carriage off the track. To knowing how the carriage worked and the different amount of pull to make for different sizes of material. There was much more, learning to turn the log to continue to make straight lumber and many more things.

I, personally am just beginning to see a little of the operation, and my father is still in the process of helping me learn what happens here at the sawmill. Some of my mechanical skills are being taught to me, regarding using the cutting torch, welder, and the other tools and equipment. I had no skills when I began this journey.

The pallet business is growing in the sense that we are now using mostly air pressure, with hand held staple and nail guns. We had 3 staple guns in use and it was rare to have all of them down at one time. There are only a couple of types of product that are being hand nailed. Because only one nail gun is owned at this time, if the gun goes down, then the products must be hand nailed, until the repair is made. We were not allowed to have the parts to repair the guns with this supplier, however, they did send a repair and support man out on a bi-weekly basis. Otherwise, we had to take the equipment to the shop in Fort Wayne to have it repaired. The nails and staples were ordered in lots of 25 cartons at a time, with 90 day release, with pickup as we needed them during that time period.

Harry was hauling 2-3 loads of logs a day an average of 3 days a week, which meant that he had to cut and skid logs the rest of the time to have logs to haul. If it rained, he would have a day off, and if he was needing more work to make his week, he worked making pallets to fill in. Most of the time it was possible to haul 3-4 loads a day if that was all that was being done, and the woods was relatively close by.

Jay Freed began working at the sawmill on the 6th. of July, first learning to make pallets, and later to help off bear the mill and run the lumber through the edger, and cut up slab wood. Usually the finished lumber was piled off to the side to be cut to length for the pallets. Up to this time my father and I had been doing most of the cutting to length, and some of the actual manufacture of the products.

This was a time in history that was still laid back and relatively easy to know what things were going to cost, because there was very little inflation of the cost of products and services. Gasoline has been within 2 cents of the same price for several years, and repair parts have not gone up very much either.

Homer had been looking at some of the literature from The Belsaw Co., and had determined he needed a couple of grinding wheels that were made to sharpen hardened tools. These would be used on a new "Flexible" shaft, that would connect to an electric motor with a coupling and would be used to sharpen the teeth in the edger. The shaft was about 4' long and would be very helpful after a little practice. The cost was $50.40 for this equipment. He had been sharpening it with a file and standing in a very uncomfortable position to do it.

Homer was at Sutherland lumber to pick up 35-1x10"x16', for the small dry shipping strips, that would be cut to 1-1/8" wide and 36" long. When cutting these, they were sawed on the mill because, the edger could not cut closer than 3-3/4" wide. When the last cut was made there was usually a piece about 1-3/4" wide left, which later would be used to cover the joints of the vertical siding on the new building that was being built. This method of covering joints is called "batten" cover joints.

Homer was at Mossman Yarnelle Company, to pick up 5 rolls of 1/2" banding, 50 pounds of pallet nails, and 50 pounds of 20d spike nails. When you are in business at this time you have to have spikes on hand to construct. The banding was purchased in 40 pound rolls, and the mill had been using it quite quickly with the gas pump bases and the small shipping stakes and blocking for the various companies. While in town, he went to National Mill Supply to get 2 boxes of saw bits, and 2 pair of safety glasses. Also went to Tractor supply Co. to get motor oil and a filter for the mill engine.

The new mill engine has been working very well and is now set up with a start button, and a clutch lever, and a kill switch, and I am beginning to learn to saw lumber with it. The power of the engine is wonderful.

Harry Strong started working part time in the mill. He is helping make pallets and will do some of the delivery of the same. He will be working about 23-30 hours a week, for about 6 weeks. Harry continued to cut and haul logs during this time.

Homer now has enough help that he is starting to close in more of the new addition with vertical siding made of Soft Maple boards of random widths, and use some of the pine board last cuts that were mentioned earlier for battens. This was done using 8d nails and hammers.

Tokheim sent a new print with a small change, there will need to be 2 extra blocks added to the base to make the base more supportive of the pump. The blocks will be 1-5/8" square and 6" long, and installed on the long dimension of the base, also at the same time, they requested that we nail the bases together, because they were having some problem with damage to the base in shipment. The company also sent a notice that they would be closed for vacation from July 26 thru August 8th.

The edger has been under powered for some time and Homer bought a used 10 HP General Electric motor to power the tool, which has 2 saws. This motor is a huge, old, open housing unit, which has a diameter of about 16" and a 1-5/8 inch shaft. The price was $295.00, and it was to run on the present 100 Amp, 240 Volt service, this would be a heavy load for the system. We were already running several small motors and the 3 HP air compressor. This motor probably was not a good idea, since it was an open winding motor, and not dust proof. The short story is, the edger was working well. At this time Homer was doing all of the electric wiring for the equipment.

For some time, the sawmill has been sending purchase orders to Allen Steel and Supply Co., for the staples and nails for the guns. Paper trail is better, and previously he had been either going to the company or telephoning them. There had been some problems and this was the solution. The orders were based on what could be expected to be used in a given 90 day period.

The main delivery truck was down for a clutch replacement and Harry Strong used his truck for 2-3 deliveries while the work was being done. Hubert Provines did the replacement , and the clutch plate was $9.80, and the labor was $15.00.

I went to The Andersons, to pick up a truck tire and tube at their tire shop, and 40 gallon of motor oil in 5 gallon cans and 50 pound of 8d nails. The trip was East on S.R. 8 to Ohio, then the road is S. R. 18, to Defiance, then onto U. S. 24 and to Maumee, Ohio., where Andersons was located. The trip took about 1-1/2 hours one way, and usually about an hour picking up the items.

The sawmill had been using rollers that had been part of an auction purchase in 1957, for the movement of lumber, and slabs to the cut off saw. Some were 4" and others were 6" in diameter and this was not working very well. Homer had been to the junk yard and there were several sets of factory rollers, 16" wide, 10' long, and the individual rollers were 2-3/4" in diameter. So over the next week this was all changed and the "new" rollers were installed. This made a huge difference. The rollers only cost $10.00, and now everything was rolling smoothly.

During the 21 days from July 6-26, there were 7 trips made to Dana and Tokheim, Dana received 1,500 locking type pieces, 400 tops, and 300 pallets. Tokheim received 2,300 gas pump bases. The 2 middle men are still purchasing some materials, and the mill is making pump bases for Par-Tee, as well as their small blocking pieces for their shipping needs.

There were only 6 farm lumber customers in July and they spent $70.00. August begins with Homer going to Fort Wayne to pick up the pine lumber for the small stakes. The stock pile was limited and he got 3 different sizes of boards, 1X10"x16', 1x10"x6', and 1x10"x12 feet. This had already happened to me one of the times I went to pick up this material. You do what you have to do.

The gasoline truck came and filled the 2 tanks one for private car use, and the truck tank and it took 489 gallon. This was the first time that much had been filled at one time. A note about the saw teeth and other specific sawmill supplies, Homer made a trip to Lansing,Michigan to visit the Ray McHugh Co. store and look at their line of supplies, he had purchased items from them previously, by mail and this time he bought 2 boxes of saw teeth, and a 4-1/2' long cant hook handle.

I had been to Auburn to deliver some pallets, and was stopped by a state trooper, because there were no tail lights or brake lights on the truck, and after he stopped me he noticed that there were some tires with little or no tread. All I got was a written warning, because this was my first offense.

Homer was always being called and asked do you want a few logs that I have, by some one, this time it was Jim Grimm. He had cut some Cottonwood trees down and wanted to know if we would buy them. There was 1,891 feet of scale and he was paid $47.25 for them. Harry is cutting and hauling logs and still helping with the pallets too.

The first air stapler that we originally purchased is starting to wear out, and needed a new magazine at a cost of $100. Also bought were several hose connectors that were wearing out and leaking air all the time.

The grade logs that were sold to Holmes Lumber Co. in Columbia City, earlier brought in $766.48 The growth of the operation required several more bearings, bushings, belts and other items from one of our suppliers, Transmission and Fluid Equipment, in Fort Wayne. It came to $64.50.

There was timber purchased from William Burns, $40.00 for 1,000 feet of Oak and Sugar Maple.

Out of the blue, I get "greetings" from Uncle Sam to report for induction into the U. S. Army on the October 27th. I knew there was an "action" in Vietnam, but I guess I was not realizing that I might be part of it. I was vaguely aware that there was a cut off date to not go if you got married before August 28th. Frances and I had set a date of her birthday on November 6th. This changed everything, and we changed the date to October 23rd. The invitations were already ready so they got a hand written note on the envelope that said "changed to October 23rd."

Homer has been busy purchasing lumber, partly because it was needed and because the people in the Woodburn area told others that they had sold timber to us. The next big timber tract was near the Ohio line East of Woodburn. The agreement stated that the sawmill could take any thing that was usable, with a clause saying that the owner of the woods would not be held accountable for any accidents or injuries that occurred. Considering the nature of the agreement, I believe it was a situation where the woods would be cleared to become crop land. This is what began all of the sales in the Woodburn area, the bulldozer operator was the same one that had the contract to clear the land for the 2 Interstate highway projects. He had told the first one about the mill purchasing timber from the road project.

The August pallet shipments were brisk, with 1,200 pallets and tops delivered to Dana, as well as 2,500 shipping stakes of 3 different types. 1,000 gas pump bases to Tokheim Corp. There were 8 different farm lumber customers, with a total of $230.00 in sales.

Homer began the month by putting a notice in the newspaper looking for people to work at the sawmill. He knew he would have to have more help, I was leaving soon. I would work right up to the time I got married. Pallet assembly work was the job that would need to be filled.

John Means was one of the people that came and talked to Homer about work. He could work 2 hours a day after his regular job. Homer was okay with that. Sept 13th, Jay Freed came and would also work part time, about 10 hours a week. About the same time Roger Means, John's son began working right after school for 2-1/2 hours a day.

At this time Homer is getting a call for 1x4" material that will become siding for corn cribs. There were still some farmers picking ear corn, not shelling it. Homer wanted to speed up the process of cutting the 1x4's. He purchased a shaft and 2 saws that the "Belsaw Co." made as an add-on for the planer. It was a small investment, of $15.35 for the parts. He could then saw the boards to 12" wide and run them through the planer. The farmers wanted planed lumber, so this worked out very well.

The farm lumber for September was $70.00. The pallets for Dana were 1,200 and the two middle men were providing some income as well. There were 5 trips to Tokheim Co. with a total of 1,300 bases delivered. The price of gasoline was still 17 cents before the Federal tax and the state was not charging tax on non road use fuel. .The latest fill up required 260 gallons.

Russell Melchi began work full time on October 8th, and left on the 27th. Jay Freed left the mill on October 18, I would work my last day on the 21st,.and prepare to marry the love of my life on Saturday.

Monday October 18, was the day before my 20 year birthday, I went to the Anderson's to pick up motor oil and anti-freeze for the sawmill. I got 11- 5 gallon cans of oil and 8 gallon of Anti-freeze. The total was $60.31.

I left for Fort Knox, Kentucky on October 27, 1965 just after 5:00 AM, not knowing what to expect and I am sure and like the others there were feelings of trepidation and maybe fear in our minds.

Homer was moving on with the construction of the new addition to the mill building in my absence. This was done with the help of several other men. Two in particular, Sam Eberly and his brother-in-law John Ramer. They also worked in the mill as well as helping with the pallet making.

There were 6 farm lumber customers for the month, and they spent $300.00 for a mix of material. Tokheim received 900 bases this month, and Dana got 1,100 pallets and tops.

There were several items purchased from Allison's for service and repairs to the equipment. Filters, contact points, condensors, also 7 spray cans of Ether (starting fluid), all at a cost of $13.83.

The sawmill fuel tank was filled again a month later and it required 225 gallons. The truck tank needed 250 gallons for a month. The main chain saw required a new chain and tip installed on the bar for a total of $25.38 at Culbertson Welding and Repair.

I have been in basic training since October 27 th., and on the drill field, the company commander calls me out, because he notices that I am limping as I march. It is November 12th. I have an open sore on my left ankle and another on where the top of my boot has rubbed my leg. When I had sent in my in my medical information, after I had received my notice to appear, I had made special note about the previous injury to my left leg. It had never been looked at by anyone. Long story short, the Captain listened to me and I showed him the present injuries. He said, "We are going to try to get you out of here." I was put on K. P. and barracks cleaning duty. I also got to wear my low quarter shoes, which did not further damage my leg. Then they began the process of review by the doctors and the paperwork to release me. I was released on January 7th, 1966. , with medical discharge.

The main cut off saw for slabwood and pallet lumber needed new belts. They cost $5.20. On November 23rd. Homer went to Fort Wayne and purchased more 1/2" banding and crimp clips, also the last of the siding for the front doors of the new building.

On November 21st, DuWayne Goings had his farm work finished for the season and started working full time at the sawmill. Tokheim received 1,000 bases and Dana took 515 pallets and tops, and 3,600 stakes of 3 types. The 2 middle men continued to purchase material on a regular basis. 5 farmers purchased $50.00 of material.

The new building is coming along, on the 3rd of December the 2-3/8" lag screws for the door track were purchased and on the 6th. Adrain B. Jump oversaw the concrete finishing of the floor in the new building, with a power trowel. It took a total of 17 cubic yards of concrete. The area that was done was the area outside of the present shop room, or the North side.

The new paperwork system for bookkeeping came and at a cost of $169.50. for 1966.

Homer is planning to build a chimney for a stove in the new building, and did not have enough on hand, so purchased another 250 to finish it off at the top. At that time new standard common brick cost five and one half cents each. Homer was a good brick and block layer.

The pallets have been going well and the Dana prices at this time are: PE-1405-$1.15 each, PE1404-$0.90 each, PE1422 Pine stakes $0.15 each.

The sawmill is showing wear from all of the use it is seeing. On the 15th., Homer ordered 3 guide roller assemblies, 2 guide track boxing pieces, 1 top dog assembly, and a new post for the dog. These parts cost $58.05 and the note on the copy of the order said, "please send as soon as possible, as I need the rollers." The back of the check was stamped as cashed on the 22nd. The post was probably broken or bent in a way that it could not be repaired, near the mounting bolt holes.

Also on the 15th. Homer went to Mossman-Yarnelle Co. and picked up all the electrical parts he needed to wire the new building and also a push broom, welding rods, and a hand pump oil can. There were also anchor pieces and lag screws to anchor the planer in the new concrete floor and the motor also.

Harry Strong has been hauling logs on a regular basis, and has just completed the jobs at Glen Newcomer's and at Mendenhalls East of Woodburn. The new pulleys and belts for the planer have been purchased at a cost of $15.95. Homer does not have the heating stove up and running yet, so he purchased a new Knipco f-98-75,000 BTU fuel oil, forced air heater, with electric ignition. It was $121.38.

The Dana PE-1403 pallet required blue paint on 1 runner on each end to define it from the heavier PE-1402 pallet. A spray can of paint was $1.21. An order was received for the first sample ones (25) of these, from our sawmill.

Sam Eberly and his brother-in-law, John Ramer, both farmers living North of S.R. 8, on Co. Rd's 45 and 47, started working at the mill on December 24th. They had cattle to take care of and therefore they both worked about 32 hours each week. Homer purchased timber from Alden Ramsire for $120.00.

Tokheim received 1,360 pump bases in December, Dana, 1,040 pallets and tops, and 1,500 stakes. Farm lumber was $250.00 from 4 customers. The total for the year of 13,580 gas pump bases for Tokheim. Dana total of 9,860 pallets, 17,075 stakes, 31 export boxes.

Some of the paperwork was damaged a few years ago, with water damage, and is gone. This is why there are no direct notes about the 2 middlemen and there is no year end financial report for 1965.

1966

1966 begins with my return on January 7th., and I was glad to be home. I returned to work on the 10th. The new building sure looked nice and was a welcome sight. For the first time there was a solid floor to make the pallets on and not uneven dirt with bark and wood pieces to look out for. Previously there was a need to rake the floor before setting up the saw horses to make pallets. Now a push broom made it easier. The floor in the sawmill area was still a dirt floor and the rake and shovel was still needed there.

On the 6th., Homer had purchased a box of saw teeth at National Supply Co. They were style 3, 9 gauge-9/32" wide. On the 17th., he bought 2 more boxes, which makes me think that the logs were exceptionally dirty, with mud or worse yet they had been skidded through a wet sandy area. They were probably frozen as well.

More 1/2" banding had been bought, because it was being used to band the gas pump bases as well as the stakes that Dana was buying, plus the material for Par-Tee Co. The sawmill needed a new shaft bearing for the top saw rig and a belt for the sawdust drag were some of the repairs that were done in January. Homer also had an opportunity to purchase 2 used electric motors from Roger Myers, a 5 HP and a 1 HP. For $175.00.

We had always used chains to bind the pallets and logs on the trucks. While loading a load of pallets, someone accidentally threw a chain over the load and hit the driver's window on the truck. Homer got in contact with Owen Glass shop in Garrett, and they replaced it for $26.75.

The sawmill needed more sections of rollers, and Homer was at the junkyard and they were available, 314 pound of them which would mean about 6-10foot sections. Also available, were 4-20' sections of track, that would be used to cart lumber away from the mill area, later.

My mother began bringing hot tea and some munchies out to the daytime employees about this time, because we had more people and my father had been wanting something for a while, too. There was an old enameled tin one quart container she was using for the tea. She also supplied some nice plastic cups to use. Sometimes there would be cookies, cup-cakes, other times it was apple slices or pieces of orange. This practice continued for the rest of the years that the sawmill operated. She did this mid morning and mid afternoon. It was very much appreciated by all. Our break times usually lasted from 10- 25 minutes, depending on how hard we had been working that day. Some of the days when it was short, was because we had much more to get done.

After I had been back for about a week, my father started me on the process of learning to saw lumber with the sawmill. My early days of sawing were cutting the same type of material, for example, all 1-5/8x4,(2x4's), or 1/2" thick material, that could be run through the edger and made into various width's of material. Learning how far to pull the lever to advance the log, or (cant), after the log had been squared, was not too difficult, because the lever was pulled a full pull to make 1" material. When making 1/2" material, there was a block that could be put in place to stop for that size. After about a month, I became pretty efficient at making what I needed. There were specialty cuts that required more knowledge, and one of those was making tapered fence posts. The posts were usually Oak, 7' long and the main section of the carriage was set at 6'. This made it pretty easy, because all that was needed was to square the log to any multiple of 4" and then on the next cut, I put a block, 1-5/8" thick between one end of the cant, and make the cut. This would make a piece that was 1-3/4" at one end and 3-3/4 at the other end. The next cut, the 1-5/8" piece was removed, and the thick end would be at the other end of the piece cut. After the whole log is cut into tapers, then they are stacked on the carriage and ripped straight , in 4" widths. The posts are 4x4" at one end and 2x4" at the other end. The large end always went in the ground. This helped it last longer and the frost did not pull them out of the ground.

One of my biggest challenges was learning to turn the logs with out knocking the carriage off the track. This was an issue because of the small track and wheel sizes. The times when it was most likely was with a larger log, over 16" in diameter. A cant hook was used to do the turning on this sawmill and a 4"x6" block of Oak about 12" long was used to turn the log onto, then a steel bar was used to catch the lip of the carriage and pry it back. If you got over zealous with either of the above processes, the carriage could come off the track. For the smaller logs the bar was 3/4"-7/8" in diameter and about 3' long, It was also the handle that was used to move the carriage forward and back, because it was removable from a receiver pipe about 10-12" off the floor. This bar was free to rotate in the receiver, so that it was comfortable to go from forward to reverse. The upper, handle end was slightly flattened and slightly bent , making it ideal to use in turning smaller logs. The very large logs, over 20" in diameter, were usually pushed back using a 1' diameter bar that was over 4' in length.

Harry Strong was hauling 60+% of the logs we were using at this time, with Homer still doing 20%, and others were hauling the rest.

There had been a problem with the size of the bases for Tokheim, recently and we had to re-make about 200, that has been resolved and everyone is happy again. A letter from Tokheim affirmed that on January 27th. Homer made a trip to The Anderson's, and picked up a tube for a truck tire, a battery, and 10 gallons of motor oil. The battery was $13.84, the tube was $4.20, and the oil was $4.40 a gallon.

Tokheim received 1,600 bases in January, Dana,850 pallets, and 4,000 stakes of 4 types. Par-Tee,200 bases, New Haven, 91 pallets.

My training included scaling logs after they were unloaded from the truck. In this part of the country, the method used is "Doyle", using a folding rule that is 4' long. The other scale is "Scribner", and it quite different in the amount of board feet, especially in the very small logs. Measuring is done in two ways. Use the average of the size of the small end, if oval. Then using the length of the log. The rule uses the lengths of 10' and 18' on one side and 12',14',and 16' on the other side. The rule is 4' long. The example is, a log of 16" in diameter and 16' long will scale at 144 board feet. A board foot is described as 1" thick, and 12" square. When I was doing this, my tools were the scale rule, a paper and pencil. Writing the numbers in a column, and when done, adding up the total.

One of the other things I had to learn, was that sawing frozen wood is different than unfrozen, Frozen wood will throw you some curve balls. One of these being that as you saw, the sawdust sometimes will melt and immediately re-freeze on the side of the cut, causing the saw blade to push sideways in the cut. This is more likely to happen if the saw is dull or sharpened a little crooked. Sometimes it happens because the teeth are worn down. Over time I learned about the various things that happen as you are sawing. Sawing too fast with worn teeth will cause the saw to lead, or pull to one side. Sometimes something like a small bulge, where a limb had broken off and re-grew, would drop when cut and fall so it was binding the saw. The gap between the saw and the table was about 1/2" and this was where these little tapers bound up.

Homer built some carts to move the cut to length pallet material around on the concrete floor. John Means had some wheels that he sold to Homer for $8.00. They worked well on the carts.

Homer is busy buying timber and Harry is hauling it in on a regular basis. Recent activity includes 16,412' of timber from Vernon Whitman, 10,235' from Hoeppner's in Woodburn, and the purchase of an estimated 10,000' plus @ $25 per 1,000 board feet, from Chester Figert.

Cliff Hankey picked up 100-3x3x96" for $54.00 which go to Hendrickson Tandem Axle in Butler. Keith Culler picked up 150-1x4x12',at 10 cents a board foot. Homer bought a tank of acetylene from Smith and Moore service station, across the street from the YMCA, on north Main Street. Another sale of farm lumber was to Bill Snyder of Hicksville, 9-1x10x9' and 3-1x4x10'. A new floor model air compressor was purchased, and it will be able to supply 2 staple guns with air continuously.

My paper track is good so, more farm lumber is noted. Leonard Fisher bought 25-1x5x16' and 10-1x5x10', Robert Prosser picked up 5-1x5x12', 10-1x5x10', and 5-2x2x6'. Ray Heffley got 35-1x5x12' and Wayne Heffley bought 22-1x6x8-1/2'. This group spent $135.00.

Homer purchased a used McCullough model 740 chain saw. This would be the saw I would now learn to use in the log yard. Because of the dirty conditions, I would have to learn to NOT cut into the dirt with the saw. It took a lot of time to get good at knowing exactly where the tip of the saw was. Let's just say I spent a lot of time learning to sharpen the saw. I learned to do the sharpening "free hand". It served me well, after I learned the method. One of the first things about sharpening is, use a sharp file, or you are defeated before you begin. The other, correct angle is everything. An even slightly dull chain is worthless.

The pallets for February were, Dana, 1,100 pallets and tops, 4,000 stakes, Tokheim, 1,470 bases. Par-Tee Co., 200 bases and 1,400 lineal feet of 1x3" material, New Haven, 100 pallets.

March 7th. Homer made a trip to Fort Wayne and bought the rest of the electrical parts he needed to finish the electric in the new building. Also purchased more sawmill files and saw teeth. One box of saw teeth were different than usual, they were the same style, but they were 17/64" in width, because they did not have more of the 9/32 size in stock. These teeth could be used but, there is not as much clearance for the actual saw blade plate when they are used. While he was out he purchased a grease gun that used cartridges rather than filling the gun from a bucket of grease. I am thankful that I had the experience of filling grease gun from a pail of bulk grease, but am glad to have the other availability. He picked up 20 cartridges that day.

The Richard Figert timber tract did produce over Homer's estimate. There was a total of 13,588 feet of timber harvested there. This property had an Antwerp,Ohio address. Mr. Harper had requested the availability of Oak logs, from some of the timber Homer had bought in the area, so he would have it to saw for some of his customers. Mr. Harper would receive the money for sawing the lumber and Homer would receive the pay for the actual lumber. One such sale brought Homer a total of $248.00 in income.

On March 4th, I got sent to pick up nails and staples at Allen Steel and Supply Co, Inc. It got me out of the mill for a while.

March 14th, Homer bought timber from Virginia Gorrell and Jay Yarde. This is now part of the Bear Creek Development on County Road 52. One of the timber tracts had a lot of Ash in it and it was sold to Crook-Miller in Hicksville, Oh. for handle making.

March 19th, Homer purchased timber from Richard Myers, some of which had to be removed the next week, because the land was being cleared with a bulldozer, to make more farm ground. What was not being dozed had a 60 day time limit.

Harvey Rennecker worked 2-1/2 months, last of February through 1st. Week of May, full time. John Means worked part time all year except June, July and August. Duwayne Goings worked part time all year long. John Ramer worked part time 3 months and a day now and then in 5 other months. Samuel Eberly worked January, February, and December, part time. Roger Means worked part time all year. Francis Bell worked June to December, part time. Floyd Myers started full time the first of November and all of December. Jay Freed worked June, July and August, part time. Robert Madajewski, worked part time, for 4 weeks in September and October. My father and I worked full time all year , both of us working some overtime hours.

Harry Hefty purchased farm lumber march 29th, 7-1x5x16', 57-1x4x16'. Russell Myers had Homer cut and haul logs to make him some lumber, 130 tapered fence posts and the rest was fence boards. William Goings had 13- 3x3x6' sawed .

Homer went to Tractor Supply Co. in Fort Wayne and picked up stock parts and bolts, also a hydraulic valve control with 2 valves for a replacement on the fork lift. $120.00 spent.

The March pallet totals were, Dana, 1,350 pallets and tops, and 7,500 stakes. Par-Tee, 200 bases, New Haven Wire and Cable, 375 pallets.

The stove in the new building is ready, it has been in process for quite a while. It was made from an old water tank, 30" in diameter and 6' long. It had originally been the drinking water storage tank at my grandmother's house, just North of the Roselawn Cemetery, which had been built in 1914. My father had removed the tank in 1964, after it started leaking, and a new smaller tank had been installed. The tank required cutting an exhaust opening and welding in a smoke pipe, cutting and framing an opening for the wood fuel door and a door to remove the ashes. Adding some framing and pipe for grates, inside the tank. The door for wood fuel was a door from an old wood and coal furnace, that was about 13"x20". The chimney had been completed before cold weather last fall.

The sawdust pile was becoming a problem, because there was a lot of sawdust being made and we were having to go out with a scoop shovel and move it away because the pile was literally full. Homer had located a longer pole and dug a post hole and moved away another 15', having made the purchase of more chain and links for it that had provision to add "paddles",. The paddles were made of wood and cut to be mounted on the special chain links with 2 large pan head screws. The wood paddles needed to be pre-bored so the screws could be installed. The screws were 1" long, and had straight slot heads, and required a hand held screwdriver to install. The paddles were about 5-1/2" long 1" thick and 2" tall. The power for the sawdust drag was now by electric motor now. It had originally been powered by a belt from the main shaft in the mill. This was no longer an option, because the shaft to operate it would have been too long, mechanically.

Homer made an agreement with Robert J. Barth of Churubusco, In., to purchase Cottonwood, Soft Maple, Elm, Willow. Do Not Take Sycamore and Walnut. Whatever else I can use, for $25 per "M" (1,000 board feet) of scale, on April 1st.

The State Forester, Larry Lichtsinn, was recently appointed to the Northeast district of Indiana, and in one of his discussions with my father, he said, " I want to work myself out of a job."

Along about this time I was using the "H.K. Porter", bolt cutters, which were the cast handle type with hardened jaws. I do not remember what I was cutting, but the cutters were intended to cut a maximum of 3/8" mild steel, with the rod or bolt at the closest point to the rear or hinge. I tried to cut something harder and too close to the ends of the jaws, SNAP, and about 3/4" of one of the jaws broke off. When I told my father, he said, " You should not have been cutting that, with those cutters." The cutters are still around and still work, but every time I use them I am reminded of the incident, 50 plus years later.

The sawmill gasoline tank required 290 gallons, cutting it close! The truck tank only needed 100 gallons. DuWayne Baker bought 350' of gate and fence boards and Robert Prosser purchased 24 1x5x12' boards. The weather required the purchase of 15 ton of #5 stone to firm up the driveways. The stone came from the Burtzner and Wilhelm plant just North of U.S. 6 on County Road 27, or Auburn-Ashley Rd. Milt Myers bought 2- 4x6x12', and Clair Pomeroy purchased 4-2x8x12', and some 3x12x10'.

The large timber cut at the William Hoeppner woods is finished, paid in full. I believe this was one of the largest tracts Homer ever purchased. It was a land clearing project to make more farm ground in Allen County South and East of Spencerville.

Tom Muhn, the owner-operator of the Auburn Sanitary Landfill ordered full 2" thick plank, to cover 8'x 80" for replacement of some floor in his scales at the landfill. The landfill was located East of Cedar Creek on what is now Auburn Drive. At the time the drive was a private road that crossed the creek and then went South to the present location of the "mound". During this period of time and before, it was common for the trash to be burned and then metal that was in it reclaimed and there were frequently rats and a lot of flies in the summer. It was not uncommon to hear small rifle fire in the off hours, as people would go in and make target practice killing rats. After the landfill closed permanently, The Auburn Foundry got permission to use the area for their slag and used mold sand pile. This is how the mound came to be.

Tokheim, received the last gasoline pump bases from our sawmill on the 4th. Of March. The trip had 240 bases and we had been making the bases for a year. We made a total of 3,500 bases in the year that we made them. It was a good experience for the sawmill to have made these pieces. This is out of order in the time line, and it was by mutual agreement that we stopped making them.

Melvin Walter sold some logs to the sawmill, during this time, and was paid $100. Harry Strong was being paid $25 per M, for the log hauling at this time.

Homer has been talking to several dealer representatives, about their staple and nail guns and their staples and nails. The companies were, The Paslode Co., Senco Co., and Duo-fast Co. He decided to change to the Duo-Fast Co., on April 22nd. He purchased a staple gun, Model S-763, and purchased 30 boxes of staples. He received a trade in allowance for the Spotnails of $100.00, and spent a total of $722.00, of which $199.50 was the cost of 1 new staple gun.

It has been 25 days since the last fuel fill-up, and the mill tank required 215 gallon. Marvin Dowden bought 3-1x12x6', 6-2x2x6', and 3-2x4x3'. Clifford Hankey is still a middle man, purchasing 4x6's and re-selling them to Hendrickson in Butler. April's totals for pallets, Dana, 1.500 pallets and tops, 3,000 stakes, Par-Tee, 200 bases, New Haven Wire, 325 pallets.

May begins with a trip to Sutherland Lumber Co. to pick up 50-1x10x16' to make the Pine, material separating strips from, for Dana Corp. These strips are 3/4" thick and 1-1/8" wide and 3' long, they are delivered in lots of 1,000. They had to be cut on the sawmill, because they are so small. It couldn't be done with the edger. They get stacked on the carriage, 4-5 high and secured with the "dogs", the cutting ends with the last piece on the carriage being approximately 1-1/2" wide. These wider pieces end up becoming "battens" on the siding of the buildings, to cover the cracks between boards or any other use where a long straight piece is needed. As I write this , there are still a few of these pieces left.

Harry Strong was paid for logs delivered, from Roger Inlow and Whitman's , 6,452' @ .05 cents a 1,000 board feet. These 2 men sold directly to Harry, and Homer paid for them when they were received. Harry, also delivered Ash logs to Hicksville, to Crook &Son, to make handles. The sawmill received a check for $177.31. Clifford Hankey purchased 500-2x4x18", @ .08 cents each or $40.00.

I was sent to The Anderson's to pick up 50 gallons of motor oil. This was done with a small truck, and was divided into two types of oil, 10-w 30 HD and 10 W, Non Detergent, which we were using for various applications. In good conditions this trip would require 5+ hours to go, pick up and return.

Maurice Terry, of Garrett, purchased 16-2x4x14', 149 bd ft. , $15.20. Harry Strong had over a week, delivered 8,571' of logs. When logs were delivered, one of us, Homer or myself had to scale the logs so we would know how many feet had been delivered. This was done either as each load came in or a specific spot was designated for several loads to put in and then done that way. It required quite a lot of time and because it was needed, it could not be left for too long. The log scale was on a folding rule, and once a person learned how to use the rule, it really went quite well. The scaled numbers of board feet were written on a sheet of paper and the columns were added up to find the totals. The whole process required the use of a fork lift and quite often a chain saw to cut the logs to the lengths that were needed. The fork lift was used to separate the logs sufficiently to be able to get to each log, to get good measurements. Most of the scaling work was done on days it was not raining or snowing. In winter, when logs were being received, it was necessary to scale and work in cold temperatures. Some days were very uncomfortable, but you had to keep going, there were customers to serve.

The edger motor needed repair, and was delivered to Wagner Electric Co, in Fort Wayne. This was the large, "old" open housing motor made by Wagner Electric Co., and it probably dated from 1935. It was approx 22" in diameter and had a shaft size of 1-1/2". It probably was 3 times the size of the present day 10 H P motors. The cost for the repairs was, $59.00.

Homer had been researching how to make up another fork lift or purchase one. His mental skills and thought process, led him to think about using one of the CO-OP tractors and purchase a mast and forks to mount on the tractor. This would require sitting on the fuel tank of the tractor and using the clutch and brake pedals with the opposite feet. He had done some testing, which I personally was not aware of at the time. He had determined that it was possible. Then the search was on to find a mast and forks that would be appropriate for the application. His search led him to PVR Surplus Sales Inc. , on the by-pass @ 2840 Lincoln Highway West. This company dealt in all kinds of surplus machinery and equipment. The purchase of a 4,000 pound Clark mast and forks was made for $275.00. Now he could start making the mounting framework and associated mechanisms and hydraulics. All of this was necessary because he was still working in the woods and hauling logs part of the time and needed a fork lift as well as needing one at the mill.

Alvin Jones hauled in logs to be sawed into lumber. 2,595 board feet were sawed and the charge was $77.85. It is the middle of May and the weather is getting nicer.

The mill is short of mill teeth, and Homer went to National Mill Supply Co, in Fort Wayne. He had been ordering from Ray McHugh Co in Lansing, Michigan. There was an order in, for materials from Lansing but it had not arrived yet. The order from McHugh arrived the next day. The gasoline tank for the mill was filled on May 21st. It required 240 gallon to fill it. Harry has hauled 10,703 feet of logs since the last time. Clifford Hankey picked up 500-2x4x18", and 500-3x3x48" as a middle man, for Hendrickson's in Butler. Homer went to the doctor for stitches on a thumb, he had gotten it pinched somewhere. Walter Fetters had some of his logs sawed and paid $36.00 for the sawing.

Dana, 1,500 tops and pallets for May, and 1,500 stakes. Par-Tee received 200 pump bases and 1,500' of 1x3 material. Hendrickson,we delivered, 100-32x38" pallets direct. Coplin, middle man 300 pallets for New Haven Wire and Cable. Crane Edmund Corp, Butler, 200- 36x36" pedal pallets. This company was making bicycle pedals, bicycle seat metal brackets and kick stands as well as car convertible top mechanisms for the auto industry at this time.

Homer's thumb is healing, but he went to the doctor one more time to have it checked.

There had been a huge construction project going on in Auburn. The Barney-Massa Co., had been installing a new sanitary sewer on S. Main St, and ordered a large quantity of 2" plank of various widths and up to 18' long, to shore up the sidewalls of the areas where the soil was not stable, and they needed to install manholes. The order was for 2.000 board feet of planking. The cost was, $220.00.

Robert Prosser, Jr., ordered 8-4x4x8' posts, 6-2x4x7', and 1-2x4x10', for $11.90. We purchased chainsaw files and oil to mix with the gas for chainsaws, for $6.48.

There was a salesman that stopped by, selling for the "Keep-Safe" division of John D. Brush Co. His product was small fire safes. My parents decided this was a good idea, and ordered a 3-1/2 cubic foot one. The cost was $99.50.

The fuel tanks were filled, and the mill tank required 210 gallon, and the truck tank 165 gallon. A spray can of blue paint was purchased for painting the ends of the Dana PE-1403, inter-plant pallets. It cost $3.08. Clifford Hankey picked up 1,000-2x4x18" @ $80.00. Robert Shutt, bought 420' of White Oak for $42.00.

Homer had talked to John Harper on many occasions, and John had told him there was a steam sawmill at Hoagland, Indiana. In the record, there is a check paid out to Henry Moldthan for $100.00. To my knowledge this was probably the second encounter between Homer and Mr. Moldthan. I believe that this check was payment for lumber that Homer had Henry saw, while he watched the steam mill operate. All of this interest in steam power began with Homer's contact with Harry Soucie, and the timber cut on the Interstate 69 right-of-way jobs South of Co. Rd 68 and where the rest parks were and one still is, North of Co. Rd. 68 In DeKalb Co. The next contact was the Breneke woods clearing project, which came about because Mr. Soucie called Homer to see if he was interested in the timber. This led to Mr. Breneke telling Homer about the steam mill on old U.S. 24 East of New Haven. John Harper later tells Homer about the Mill in Hoagland. In a future conversation with Mr. Moldthan, Homer finds out that the Chandler-Taylor engine that is powering the Hoagland mill came from a location in Belleview, Michigan, in 1950. More about Bellview at a later time in the story.

Marshall Carnahan purchased 20-2x4x8', 108' for $10.60. Gerald Maldeny bought 5-16x12' Oak boards for $3.00.

Homer made a trip to Tractor Supply Co, to pick up supplies, and one of the things purchased was a first for the sawmill, a grease gun that would use cartridges, rather than having to fill fron a can of bulk grease. I had become quite good at filling from the bulk can, but Was glad to be able to do it with the tubes of grease. He started out with the gun and 30 cartridges or tubes. The tubes were $.22 cents each. The gun was $4.89, and he bought two. The other items bought that day were consumable goods.

Marshall Carnahan was back a few days later and bought some mixed lumber for $10.00. Many of the small farm lumber sales were not very profitable, because of the time spent going out to locate what they needed from our stockpile of pre-sawed lumber, but they served as a reminder of the need to make lumber available for quick pick up on short notice. This also applied to sawdust loading, which now that there was a loader available, we were doing quite often.

My father is feeling the pinch of trying to keep the yard mowed with a 21" push mower and decides to go with a cheaper 30" cut riding mower. He purchased it at Tractor Supply Co, for $230.00. It had a 4 HP engine and 2 speeds forward. He did the mowing, with it for the summer, and when he got behind, I brought my new 21" push mower from my home and would help out. This mower was used for about 2-1/2 or 3 years.

Milo Link bought 4-2x4x34" for a little project he was doing. $3.00.Duwayne Goings bought some 2x4" pieces for stakes on his sides of his truck. Earl Coplin purchased a specialty piece that was 5"x12"x10' for $5.50.

Wilbur Walters, asked Homer to look at some trees and Wilbur agreed to sell Soft Maple, Ash, etc, in a swale behind his house for 20 dollars per "M", this was probably all pallet material.

Gene Wilson bought 5x6' of one inch oak for a top over a well pit. Neil Prentice purchased 9-2x8x12', 10-2x4x12, $22.15.

More saw teeth came from Ray McHugh Co , also some mill files, to sharpen with. The gasoline tanks were filled again, mill, 285 gallon, truck, 210 gallon. This has been working out to about once every 3-1/2- 4 weeks.

Herbert Mertins, bought 210" of Oak lumber, $21.42. Barney-Massa purchased 2 more lots of 2" thick lumber for the ongoing sewer project. Jerry Myers and Max Warstler purchased 5-2x6x16'. This is Floyd Myers son and son-in-law.

Pallets for June were: Dana, 900, and stakes-1,000., Hendrickson- pallets 500, 4x6x29",1,450., New Haven Wire and Cable, 450 pallets, Coplin, for New Haven, 50 pallets, and now the mill is making all of their deliveries. Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets. Barney-Massa, 4,100 board feet of 2" lumber, from 12-20 feet long, and 30-8x8x8' timbers.

July Pallets, Dana, 850, and 3,500 2x2's and stakes, Par-Tee, 200 bases, and 1,400 linear feet of 1x3 material, Hendrickson, 241pallets, and 1,600 blocks, both 2x4x18",4x6x24 and 29", We are now delivering all of the pieces, the middleman has bowed out of the picture, for Hendrickson. Crane-Edmund, 200 pedal pallets. Francis Bell started working, part time.

Dad went to The Andersons, picked up motor oil, a truck- tire tube and some other supplies. This means that I was working on pallets, sorting and scaling logs, or working on equipment. There was never a lack of things to do.

Milt Myers had some of his logs sawed, and we sawed 1,150 feet of material. Sawing only was $33.00. K&L Logging delivered 2 loads of logs that were pallet quality, which they couldn't use. They scaled out at 2,600'. Karl Sliger purchased 2-2x8x16' for $15.22. Maurice Terry bought 24-1x4x16', and 2-2x10x16' @ a cost of $18.46. Harry Strong has delivered 8 loads of logs from the Barth woods, with a total of 13,718 board feet of volume. Homer paid him at the rate of 2-1/2 cents per board foot.

Some of the equipment needs to have new bearings and some new piece of equipment is being installed, because there is an invoice from Transmission and Fluid Equipment for belts, pulleys and pulley hubs. The total cost of the parts was $30.35.

Jay Freed is working again, part time, he had been off for several months. His other job has slacked off some and he wants more work time.

Another section of the concrete floor in the new building has been completed. This area covers the front area of the 1960 section .

Gene Dietrich purchased 6-1x6x8', and 6-1x6x6'. He lived on County Road 47 at Co. Rd. 52. This period of time included some down time for the tractor Homer has been skidding logs with. A clutch and throw-out bearing and some other minor parts. The parts were purchased from Harts Auto parts, Cecil Ohio. This town is about 30 miles by road away. Homer probably was the one who went to get the parts, as I personally never was in their shop. Homer's day also included a trip to the Mossman-Yarnelle Company, to purchase light bulbs and electrical parts, as well as more log chain, 5/16"x 16 feet and 2 chain binders.

Homer had purchased the 1954 Ford tractor with a 1958 backhoe, a 1954 Chevrolet 1 ton truck and a 1954, "Fayette" trailer to haul the back hoe on in July, from Jesse Robison, for $3,450.00. He deferred the payment until August. This equipment would see a lot of use. He got the licenses for the truck and trailer at the Butler license branch.

Homer, turned in another Spotnails staple gun for $100.00 trade value and purchased another Duo-Fast staple gun for $199.50. He made an agreement with the supplier to order 90 boxes of staples, with them being taken 10 boxes at a time, and delivered to The Jay Box Company, on Indiana Ave., in Auburn. They were also using the Duo-Fast staples, and it was convenient for the truck to deliver both customers staples to the same location. Several times along the way, Homer had been in contact with the owner, Jay Stonestreet. and he was using the Duo-Fast products and was satisfied with them.

One of the invoices I have is for an air impact gun and a set of heavy sockets for it. The impact gun was $150.00, and the socket set, from 7/16"-1-1/4" were only $8.49 plus tax. This information indicates that Homer was in the process of replacing the rails, or base chain that the pads go on for the Terra-Trac fork lift. The job required the removal of all the pads from the rails and installation of the new rails, "think chain", and re-installing all of the pads on the new rails. I remember helping do the job, and that some of the bolts and nuts would not come apart with the new air tool. The bolts that would not come off were cut with the Oxygen-Acetylene torch. New bolts had been purchased and the actual re-install was pretty easy. In the end, the 5/8" socket needed to be replaced as it wore out.

The final drive belts on the cut-off saw, that was used for slab wood and the most of the pallet material wore out and needed to be replaced. They were a matched pair. Total circumference was 62", and there was a number or letter code on the belts besides the belt length, that stated that they were a matched pair. This was important because if they came from a different lot number they might be as much as ¼" different in length, and would not preform correctly.

Wayne Heffley purchased 10-1x4x10', 6-1x4x4, and 3-2x8x10. Harold W. Smith, bought 5-1x6x16', and Ray Heffley bought 32-1x6x10'. These 3 bought this lumber in a period of 5 days.

Dana sent an order for 10 more of the plywood export boxes, to be delivered in 10 days, as per telephone call. I never did help with these boxes, Homer built all of them. If I remember right, they were being shipped to South America.

DuWayne Goings, was sent to Mossman-Yarnelle Co. to pick up a 50 pound box of Hillwood Co., drive screw nails, 2-1/2" long. Homer had called ahead and ordered the nails, for a pallet project. Roger Cook bought 3-2x8x12', for $4.90. Homer ordered a pump, and gasket, from Hart's Auto Parts, in Cecil, Ohio, for one of the tractors, I do not know which one, and it was delivered by UPS. The total bill was $38.91, and the delivery charge was $1.13. I think it was either a hydraulic pump or a water pump. Another tank of acetylene was picked up at Smith and Moore, on N. Main St, in Auburn. The price has not changed, @ $4.85.

August 1966 pallet deliveries were, Dana, 1,400 pallets and tops, 1,000 stakes, and 5 shipping boxes. New Haven, 200, and 1,400 linear feet of 1x3" material, Hendrickson, 125 pallets and 2,150 blocks of 3 sizes, New Haven, 457 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 408 pallets, of which the 8 pieces were a special order pallet, 54"x72", that was the longest pallet we made, Bohn, 150 pallets of 2 sizes, the larger on was 48" square, and had 4-way entry by using 4x4x4" blocks for the equivalent of runners. These blocks were cut by installing a stop block, so as to only advance the wood 4x4, four inches at a time. The use of a stop block became a hindrance to the quick cutting and a line became the standard for the length. This then allowed for the blocks to be cut and literally pushed forward in a row. The out feed table was approximately 20" long, making it possible to put a box under the out feed board and catch the blocks as they fell. This also caused the employee that was cutting to endanger their fingers as they cut blocks, because you become familiar with the process, and got quicker with practice. Over the years that I cut blocks, I, on several occasions did cut the fuzz off my glove, in the process of cutting the blocks. This was because you would be pushing the piece ahead with one hand while the other pulled the saw in to make the cut. I never did more than bump into the gullets of the saw teeth, but the danger was there. Thankfully, I still have all of my fingers.

Marshall Carnahan, picked up 5-1x5x16', for $6.67. The Duo-Fast staple pick-up at J-Box was a short term thing, and because we purchased items from the Farm Bureau on a regular basis, where NAPA is now, on Michigan Ave. became the pick-up point. 10 boxes of staples were delivered there, and the freight bill was $6.90, for these. They weighed 390 pounds and there was a note on the bill of lading, DO NOT DROP, FRAGILE. In the years since, I have often wondered how much each box weighed, and now I have the answer, 39 pounds.

DeWayne Baker had ordered lumber to be sawed per a detailed list, from his drawing of a new barn to be built on the farm he owned. The farm was at 5380 County Road 45, which is just North of road 46-A. Mr. Baker and a partner operated a business, Baker and Aultman Construction Co. He planned to use fresh sawed White Oak lumber to build the framing for the barn. Homer was to saw out all the material. It would be the largest building that the mill produced lumber for. The list is quite long, but I think it needs to be noted. 62-2x5x12', 41-2x5x14', 7-3x10x14', 3-3x10x16', 2-2x8x16', 18-2x6x20', 4-2x6x18', 2-2x8x10', 8-2x6x14', 38-2x8x14', 5-2x8x18', 42-2x8x14', 5-2x8x18', 42-2x8x16', and 20-2x6x16'. The total of 4,121 board feet of lumber was sawed for the project. The bill for the lumber was $400.00, and was paid for on September 7th. The sill plate was the 3x10 plank material, which might have figured out to a size of 28'x46', for the footprint of the barn. I will never know the actual size of the barn, because less than 10 years later it burned to the ground. I do know that Harold and Ruthann Surface lived there, early in the life of the barn and said it was a very nice barn. They had moved before it burned.

The mill fuel tank required 280 gallon to fill. The truck tank needed 165 gallon. Homer had made agreement with Farm Bureau to have 90 days till payment was due for the gasoline.

Homer made a trip to Ray McHugh Co., Lansing, Michigan to pick up items for the sawmill, it's Saturday and he had called ahead to see if they were open. They were and he picked up shanks for the edger saw, these are the pieces "C" shaped that hold the teeth in place. Also 400 saw teeth, a wrench used to change the teeth in the edger saws. A dozen 10" mill files, 1- dozen 8"x7/32" chainsaw files, (three different brands), Oberg, Simonds, and Hoe. One cant hook handle, 5' long. The total cost was $97.49. Homer picked up some literature for several different items that were being sold by the HcHugh Co. One of these sheets details the products of the American Logging Tool Company, since 1875, @ Evart, Michigan. The product line starts with logging tongs, and a two-man log carrying tool, it has a swivel and is just a pair of tongs with a long handle. It will grab and carry up to 16" in diameter. This was made specifically to carry light and telephone poles by hand. Also listed are, chain hooks, of the two main styles, grab and slip, the grab fits the chain and is secure, no slip. The slip is used on a chain where you are wanting the chain to continue to tighten until there is no slack. Also listed are "cold-shut" chain joiner links. My father was a big fan of cold-shut links, because, they could be used to repair a chain that had been broken or needed to be added to. The joint was made by inserting two open links of chain into the link and then mounting it in a vise and closing the link with a hammer or the vise to squeeze it. The link had an eye that would receive the other end of the link. There should be a minimum of 1/8" of metal beyond the eye part. After the joint is made, use a hammer to flatten the small 1/8" end. If you want it can be used like that, but we always welded the joint.

Victor Timmerman bought 421' of lumber from logs he had delivered. Sawing was $14.93. Jack Cook picked up a 2x6x14', for $12.04. Gene Dietrich, bought some 2x4's and some 1" lumber for $5. Vic Timmerman picked up more of his lumber, 490'.

Duo fast is requiring the mill to purchase the repair parts that are needed to keep the guns in order. These are o-rings, piston bumpers, and pusher springs. At this point they are doing all the repairs on the guns. But we have to call them to have them come and do the repairs. They do come once each week to check, but sometimes what was good today is not tomorrow. Kind of frustrating when you have product to make and the guns do not work.

Robert Madajewski started working part time, he was a neighbor on County Rd. 41. Harvey Rennecker picked up his lumber from his logs, $20 for sawing. Darwin Provines bought 350' of lumber, 1x5x14' @ $35.00.

Dana sent out request for bids on their PE-1420 and PE-1423 pallet and tops, "utilize pack." There would only be 100 of each type made, as they were a one time special project. The pallet, was $1.30 each, The top, $0.70 each. Homer gave them a bid and they accepted it. They also sent out a blanket order for 5,000 of the pine strips for separating their clutch plates. 1,000 were to be shipped on the first week of each of the 5 next months. The pieces were priced at 15 cents each.

Homer went to The Andersons, to pick up 20 gallon of motor oil, at a cost of $17.09. Soon after on the 28th. he went to Sutherland Lumber, to pick up barn door handles and metal roofing material. Also more pine boards for the first 1,000 of the small pine strips, on the recent blanket order.

The September pallet totals were: Dana, 1,500 pallets and tops, and 1,000 of the stakes, Bohn, took 500 total of two types of block pallets. Hendrickson received 1,100 blocking pieces of 3 types. New Haven took 207 pallets.

Crane Edmund Corp, also known by the name CECOR Products, sent a letter asking for a change in the 36" square pedal pallet. The evidence of the print change is because the pallet was not strong enough to support the load. The change would be from 4-1/2x4" top boards, they changed to 4" board at each end, as it had been and the two center boards were now to be 1/2x6" wide, rather than 4". The price changed to five cents more than before.

Homer was very satisfied with the Duo-Fast staple guns and staples. He ordered a total of 80 boxes most recently, to be released from a blanket order as needed. The most recent order was for 15 boxes. The sales man for the company,Fort Wayne location was Fritz Franz. Over the years, I had many encounters with him, either when he stopped to check on the equipment or when we needed more product and I went to pick it up at his stock point. I have forgotten where he was originally located, but later he was located on Spring Street in Fort Wayne, just west of the old railroad overpass. I watched him do the early repairs on the staple guns, and learned a lot. This would be really important a little later.

The fuel usage was down a little this month, mill tank, 220 gallon, truck tank, 170 gallon. Several of the farm customers came to get lumber at this time. These are from October 14-22nd. Henry Fuhrer, Wayne Kimmel, DuWayne Goings, William Burns. These men picked up a mix of lumber, including, gate boards, and support material, from 8' long to 16' long. One of them brought logs to have sawed into his written list of items. The group amounted to a total of $61.00 income.

Ralph Bartles, had an auction on the 15th of October, and on the 18th, Homer made an agreement with Jack Surfus, the new owner to purchase timber from the 19 acres of woods on the property. Homer had talked with Mr. Surfus on the day of the auction about this. The agreement was that Homer would pay $1,200.00 for the usable timber he had looked at there. The timber was to be removed by April 1, 1967. Mr. Surfus was to leave a sodded driveway available to use.

Homer submitted a request for pallets to bid on at Sheller Mfg. Corp, at Portland,Indiana. He now had enough workers either full or part time to be able to take on a new customer. This company made steering wheels for the auto industry. He did submit bids on 9 different pallets. His quote noted that he could supply 800-1,000 pallets per month, if needed. He had driven to the plant to check the mileage, and it was 75 miles from the mill to the plant. The trucks he had available would be able to deliver 300-400 per trip. He sent the quote on October 25th., and the bids on 3 products came back as accepted. Their designation for the items was: the 15-P, 16-P, and the 22-P. The prices were $1.67, on average per pallet. The first delivery date was 2 weeks later on November 8th. for 200 15-P and 150-16-P. The second delivery date was 11-23-1966. That was to be 350-16-P. These pallets were all block type pallets, and required a very special set of jigs to lay the pieces in to manufacture them. For example, the blocks had to have a set of support corners to hold them in place, and then the top boards were made in two stages, supporting the horizontal boards and then the vertical boards, as you looked down on them from above. The vibration factor meant that you had to pay attention at all times while making them. I think Homer liked the challenge of figuring out the pattern for the forms to make these pallets. I did not and still do not like those types of challenges, it is not part of my makeup. Homer made the first several deliveries to Portland. On one of those trips, he took the 1952 Chevy truck with the 20' pup flat bed trailer. His fuel tank must not have been full, or the tank was not large enough for the trip, because he ran out of fuel about a mile from his destination in Portland. Some one gave him a ride into town and he bought a fuel can and made the rest of the delivery trip, then re-fueled and headed home. He did have an extra gallon of fuel along, but did not need it as he had an empty truck then.

The main chain saw Homer was using to cut in the woods, needed a chain, bar, filter, and a starter base unit. The starter either wore out or was damaged from use. He was not careless, but things did happen to the chain saws quite often. About the same time, the water pump and hydraulic pump on his skidding tractor needed replaced. On his was back from Portland on one of the trips, he stopped at Hoagland, at the farm dealer there and purchased the two pumps, for the tractor, for a total of $128.65.

Harry Strong delivered a load of White Ash, and Hard, "Sugar" Maple to Crook and Son in Hicksville, Ohio. The load had 1,956 feet of scaled logs. The sawmill received $174.94 for the logs.

I have a note that it snowed on November 2nd, 3rd, and 5th, and was windy too, probably some drifting snow too. On Friday the 4th. Homer went to Allison Corp, an automotive, farm and repair equipment supplier, and purchased all of the supplies he would need to install the water pump and the hydraulic pump he had purchased a few days ago. The parts and materials cost $59.09, and also included spark plugs, contact points, condenser, (parts needed before electronic ignition), Bar's leak, sealer, a new fan belt, ( before electric fans), a new thermostat, and an oil filter.

The Robert Barth, timber tract was a large one, at this time. Homer has removed 58, 312 board feet of timber and there is more yet to get. This property had an address of Churubusco, Indiana. The fuel for the mill is back up, 280 gallon, and the truck tank, 200 gallon. The blanket orders are being renewed at Dana and they are using materials. Homer had been using a nail gun from Spotnails and had used the rest of the stock of nails, and traded it in on another Duo-Fast staple gun, there are now 3 Duo-fast staple guns in use at the mill. This does make it better, because if one breaks down, there is another one to drop back on.

This is the list of the farm customers for the month. Francis Dulle, Howard Grimm, DeWayne Baker, Edward Shutt, Dwight Carnahan, Wayne Heffley, Edward Carper. The total was $662.00. Over $400.00 was from the barn Job for DeWayne Baker, he ordered the lumber in two groups for his new barn. The $ from Mr. Baker was from the second part of the order.

Homer made a delivery trip to Portland in the snow and returned safely, on the 29th.

The pallet delivery notes for October and November are: October, Dana, 1,500 pallets, 1,500 stakes, Par-Tee, 200 pallets and 700' of 1x3 material, Bohn, 300 pallets and Hal Williams signed the delivery slip. Hendrickson, 500 blocking pieces, New Haven, 253 pallets, Cecor, 200 pallets, Duane Huff signed the delivery slip. November, Dana, 1,400 pallets, and 3,500 stakes. There was a special pickup by Dana on the 18th, a Friday, they ran out of PE-1405 expendable pallets and sent a company van out to the mill to pick up 17 pallets, until we could deliver a load. This was about 10:30 in the morning, we delivered 85 more in the afternoon. When this happened, it made us aware that we needed to be on top of our situation. We had just taken on a new customer in Portland and had let ourselves get behind. I worked 48 hours that week, and there was another 83 hours worked by other workers, and my father probably worked over 48 hours that week. By Monday after the hurry to make pallets, we delivered 200 more PE-1405 pallets to Dana. This also solidified the plan, after discussion with Dana and among ourselves that it would be good for all concerned that we be able to have at least 200 of the PE-1405's on hand at all times. Bohn, 400 pallets, Sheller-Globe, 735 pallets, Hendrickson, 400 pallets and 500 blocks. New haven, 319 pallets. Cecor, 200 pallets, Barney-Massa, timbers and 2x8and 10 planks, 4-8x8x8',8-8x8x10', 62-2x10x12', 38-2x8x12'.

December begins with fuel for the mill and the trucks. Mill fuel was 243 gallon and only 2 weeks since last fill. The truck tank, 100 gallon. The truck tank is showing less, because the truck is getting filled in Portland each trip we made there. On the 2nd, we received a letter from Sheller Manufacturing, requesting a change in the thickness of the material on the tops of the pallets that were being delivered. Some of the pallets were too weak because, we were using 1/2" material and it was green wood, from Cottonwood and Basswood. This was to keep the weight down, but some of the boards were breaking. The request was to go to 5/8" thickness. There was a concern whether this would work, because there was a weight limit for the pallets too. It all worked out in the end, by using a harder type of wood.

Otto Busche, purchased 15-2x10x18', 1-2x8x18, 4-2x6x18, and 8-4x4x10'. His cost was $57.75. J-Box Co. called and asked the mill to saw 400 board feet of 3x3" lumber, they had run out of this material for making block pallets. Their supplier was not able to fill on short notice.

Homer had been to Fort Wayne and picked up a 250' roll of 12-2 electric wire, some boxes, clamps, and covers, and 2-300 watt heavy service type light bulbs. The light bulbs have a heavier filament,and are more resistant to vibration.

Another shipment of Staples arrived at the Farm Bureau, in Auburn, and one of the types is denoted as step point. This makes it possible to clinch or bend the staple when it is driven into wood and sticks through enough to hit a section of metal, it will bend over and quite often it will bury into the wood as it hits the steel.

Cecor, sent a new print for the sawmill to bid on, it is for shipping their kickstand's on. It is 3-2x4's spaced at 38" outside and 42" long. It will have 6 boards on top, with one at each end and the other 4 evenly spaced in the center, with 6-1/2 inches between the inside edge of the end board at each end, and the first of the 4 boards. The print does not show any boards on the bottom side, and I think that is correct, because we double stacked them, one up and the next down, to make them stack properly.

The boxes of step point staples that were being used were costing $24.00 each at this time. Gerald Smith started working part time in early December. He was working at Dana at this time as well. Homer was contacted by Mr. Breneke, from Woodburn about making some pallets for Cletus Miller, who was running a seed corn business North of U.S.24, on State Road 101. We made the material for 150 pallets for his business, and he was going to build them. I can't make out the sizes on the paper as it was a copy and has faded.

Homer made a trip to The Anderson's, again and picked up 2 truck tires and tubes. Also motor oil, 30 gallon and other misc items. He was concerned with the welfare of the employees, and purchased a fuel oil heater, electrical ignition burner and fan, with a 100,000 BTU capacity. In spite of all the sawdust around we had 2 or sometimes 3 running to be able to keep the staple guns and the employees hands warm in cold weather. The mill fuel tank required 294 gallon to fill it. That's cutting it close. There were 2 farm lumber customers with a minor amount of $ spent.

December ended with pallet production for 1966, Dana, 10,300 pallets, 4,200 tops, 34 00 blocks& stakes, and 205 shipping boxes. Tokheim, 3,500 pump bases. Par-Tee, 1,800 bases and 9,450 linear feet of 1x3" boards. Bohn, 1,715 pallets and 200 blocks. Sheller, 1,876 pallets. Hendrickson, 1,300 pallets and 8,950 blocks. New Haven, 3,176 pallets, and Crane-Edmund, 1,658 pallets. The total complete nailed or stapled units was: 29,730.

# 1967

The year begins with the purchase of 4- V belts two for immediate use and two for spare-later use. They were $4.70 each. They are for the final drive of the large cut-off saw for pallet material and slab wood. The saw get used every day that there is either pallet material or slab wood being cut. The yellow cotton gloves are still 3 pair for $1.39. My mother has been picking them up at J.C. Penney Co. for years. At the time, they were located at the South West corner of Main and 6th. St. in Auburn. Homer has been to Portland again, and got gas and brake fluid before returning to the sawmill. About this time, Homer started looking for another truck to deliver pallets and haul logs with. The real desire was to find something that was more dependable and newer. He had stopped at the Ford truck lot on West California Road (West 930.) They did not have anything at the time.

The sawmill had gotten on several mailing lists, and one of them was a company in New Jersey. W.G. Runkles Machinery Co. , they specialized in everything for the wood industry, for mills, pruning, skidding, and hauling items, including chain. The complete list covers both sides of 2 legal sized sheets.

Dana, sent another item that they wanted the mill to bid on. It is a support blocking piece, 2x2x24" long. The bid price was $0.10 each. Approx 2,000 per month would be needed. Sometimes when going to Portland, Homer would stop at a different fuel station. This time it was a Marathon station a the intersection of U.S. 27 and Ind, 124 at Coppess, west of Monroe, Indiana. "Gas war" going on,12.3 cents per gallon of gasoline purchased. The fuel tanks for the mill and trucks, were filled on 1-16-1967, 280 for mill and 220 for truck tank.

Myers- Warstler, Clarence Bry, Walter Reinhart, all bought small amounts of farm lumber. Cletus Miller, ordered the material for another 50 pallets for his seed corn business.

My mother picked up 9 more pair of gloves and postage stamps. Homer was cutting timber in the Butler area, and needed chain saw fuel, got it at the Marathon station. He needed some small tools also, and went to the Gamble Store in Butler, to get them.

The Duo-Fast Co., is busy supplying the mill with product, 35 boxes of staples and nails, 5 weeks worth, & one new staple gun and an in line oiler for the staple gun. This order was $943.00.

Homer has been managing Roselawn Cemetery along with the sawmill and cutting timber. Now that he has a back-hoe, he is also digging the graves at the cemetery as well. Busy man!

The landfill is getting 11 plank for their scales floor. Royce Gibford, and Ralph Surfus, picked up farm lumber too. The regional manager from Duo-Fast stopped in to see how we feel about the products and the service we were getting. All was well. Just after he left, in a day or two we got the billing for the repair parts that had been used for the last month for the staple and nail guns. The bill was $54.24. They were really doing a good job of servicing the tools. Culbertson Welding and Repair was doing a nice job of servicing the chainsaws as well. The latest repairs were for one saw and cost $32.49.

Homer needed some steel for repairs, and went to the junk yard again. 118 pounds of steel for $6.40. The same day February 1, he also went to Tractor Supply in Fort Wayne, and picked up a battery, and 2- brake cylinder hones, and 5 pound of bolts, $22.95.

As the new month begins, Homer is beginning to realize that the present sawmill is not going to meet the needs in the future. There is nothing in the records to indicate this, but as I analyze the information that is available, I can sense this. Knowing that my father was always thinking about the processes and what was going on, it is evident. He was receiving a lot of information concerning sawmills and the equipment that was available in the trade publications. The Belsaw Co. mill was originally made for the farmer or small business that needed a small amount of material sawed, on the order of being operated only maybe 6 weeks a year. The mill was running some part of 4 days and sometimes 5 days a week at this time. As I remember, about this time it was usually for a minimum of 4-5 hours a day.

Over the last several years, the need for more chains, load binders, saw teeth, files and parts for the equipment, had increased considerably, showing the increase in production. More man power had been brought on as well.

There was a lot to learn yet, and I was willing to learn. One of those tasks required me to learn to work with others and to understand and begin to look ahead and see what was going to need to be done. This also included pallet production, scaling logs, using the fork lifts to their full ability. Also in the winter the log yard had to be leveled in the evening, if it was going to be below 30 degrees temperature. Otherwise, the ground was so rough that the logs would fall off the forks while moving around the log yard. It was really bad when the snow was melting or there had been an ice storm.

I have not mentioned the electric bill for quite a while, it has now about 3 times higher than when I last wrote about it. An average month's electric is now around $30.00. The need for small repairs to the trucks, is an ongoing item, because parts do wear out. And filters need replaced. The bill for small parts from Allison Corp. for these parts for the month was $66.09. Among the parts were spark plugs, and other ignition parts, an after market turn signal device, and signal flashers. A phone order for saw teeth, was made to Ray E. McHugh Co. on 2-2-1967, and they were pulled from stock and shipped by UPS, the same day. The driveways were muddy and an order was made to have stone delivered. A load of #5 washed stone was delivered the next day. This load would have been approximately 10 ton. The mill tank required 290 gallon, and the truck tank 240 gallon. A new McCulloch chain saw was purchased, for $265.00. It was a model 790, with the new slim line bar, 23" long. Homer had been using steel wedges when needed to fell trees, and with the new saw, he decided to purchase 2 new magnesium wedges, which would not damage the chain if it hit them in the process of cutting. They cost $5.08, a bargain if you consider the cost of hitting the steel ones when cutting. Another load of stone was ordered and this time it was 17.8 ton, of #5 pit washed stone. 6 pair of gloves purchased.

I was sent to The Andersons, and picked up an electric motor for $226.17, and 80 gallon of motor oil for $70.96. The oil was in 5 gallon square cans at this time.

Homer delivered to Portland, and on the way back, he stopped in Fort Wayne and picked up Pine lumber to make the spacer sticks out of. He purchased enough to make 1,000 of the pieces. The cost was $145.60. 5 v-belts and a pillow block bearing were bought on the same trip, at Transmission and Fluid Equip., at a cost of $52.85.

Indiana Tangible tax , on personal property was due at this time. The sawmill and pallet equipment were listed at $7,694.00, including the three trucks and the 20' semi-trailer, for tax purposes.

Farm lumber for February, William Burns, we sawed his logs, $22.75, Dwight Carnahan, sawing his logs, $29.75. These 2 men were neighbors, and probably worked together to get the logs cut and hauled to the mill. Glen Newcomer purchased 241 feet of 2x8and 2x10 lumber 12' long, for $27. 04.

The fuel truck came again to fill the tanks, it's been 18 days since the last fill, and the mill needed 230 gallon, and the truck tank, 230 also.

Pallet production for January and February were: Dana, 1,900 pallets, and tops, and 4,000 blocking pieces. Hendrickson, 602 pallets, the 2 being samples for another size pallet. Sheller, 1,570 pallets. Bohn Aluminum and Brass, 700 pallets, and 200 spacer slats. Hankey for Hendrickson, blocking, 1,000 pieces. Par-Tee, 400 bases, and 1,050 linear feet of 1x2" boards. Crane-Edmund, 400 pedal pallets. New Haven Wire, 300 pallets. Cletus Miller purchased another batch of lumber to make another 50 seed pallets.

Homer found the truck he had been looking for, at the International used truck sales lot in Fort Wayne. It was a 1962 Dodge 500, 1-1/2 ton size, light green in color, and it had less than 70,000 miles on it. It did not have a bed on it, just the frame rails, he would have to build a bed for it. It cost $948.60. The bed he built for it was 19' long. I wish trucks could be bought for that price now.

K & L, Lumber delivered pallet logs, they did not have use for. They were mostly a mill sawing grade lumber. They had a tandem axle truck and could haul a larger load of logs than we could with our trucks. The sawmill received quite a lot of Wild Cherry from them that was of lesser quality. We did not have much Wild Cherry, because these trees like a looser drier soil. Our local soil is yellow clay, and these trees will usually only get about 10-14 inches in diameter and then they will die.

10 boxes of the nails for the new Duo-Fast air nail gun have been ordered, at a cost of $25.38 per box.

K & L also was in the market for purchasing White Oak and Sugar Maple and Homer sold them 2 loads , that they paid very well for.

There was a petty cash fund, and it was being used to purchase business envelopes, stamps, and various other small items. Homer carried some, when he was delivering pallets to Portland and my mother, who was the bookkeeper, would use the petty cash to buy envelopes at the grocery store. This time, she purchased a box of 50 legal size envelopes for 39 cents.

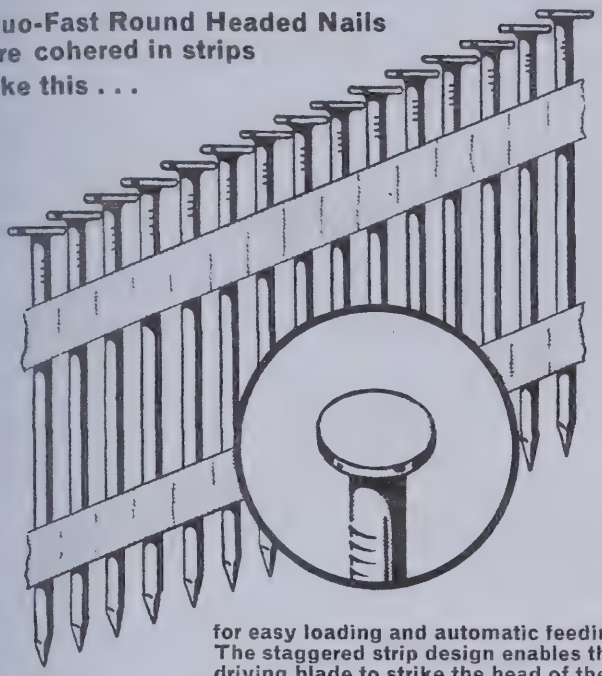
Homer just purchased 236 pounds of angle iron at the junk yard for $23.60. All of this material was to build the mounting frame work and the outside rail work for the bed on the new to the mill truck.

On the March 11, Homer sold 2,259 board feet of veneer and grade Oak logs to Bowen Manufacturing Co. for $316.26. The 6-month renewal of Insurance on the 1950 Ford dump truck was paid, in the amount of $21.00.

The Ford backhoe tractor needs a new clutch. The work to change it was done by Homer at our shop. The parts and materials cost $40.94.

Elvin Fordham was paid an advance on timber the sawmill was going to purchase from him.

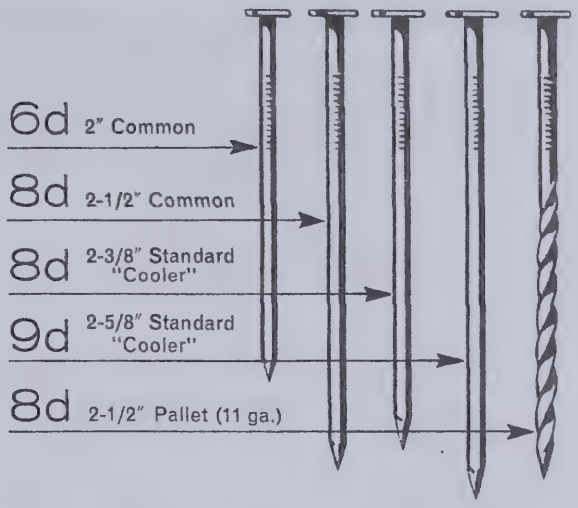
**Duo-Fast Round Headed Nails are cohered in strips like this . . .**



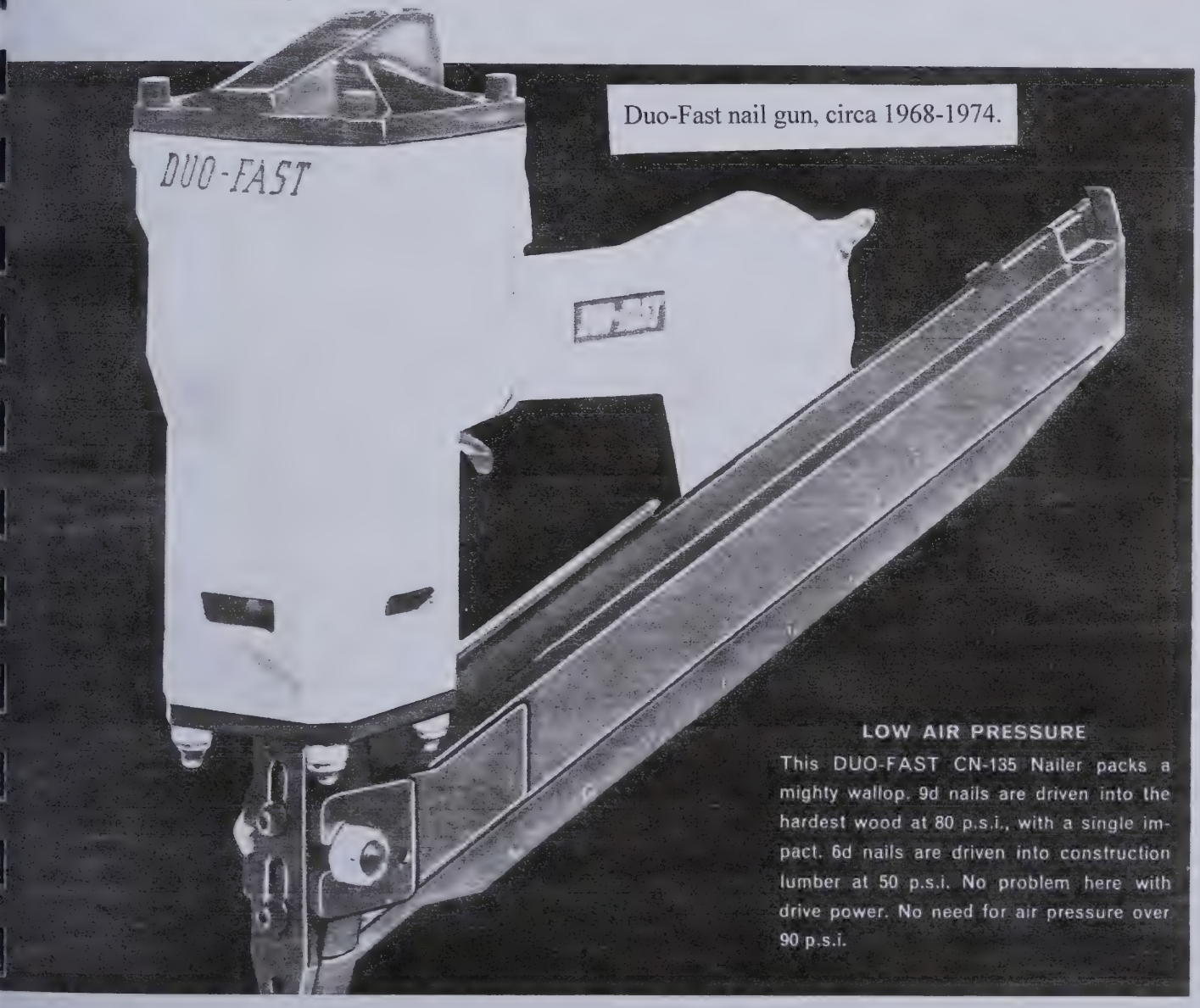
**for easy loading and automatic feeding. The staggered strip design enables the driving blade to strike the head of the nail dead center, thereby driving it properly.**

## NAIL SIZES

These are commercial bulk nails, of the following sizes, which are cohered into the strips shown.




The nails are coated for superior holding power. The pallet nail is the spiral type, screw nail.




Duo-Fast nail gun, circa 1968-1974.

### LOW AIR PRESSURE

This DUO-FAST CN-135 Nailer packs a mighty wallop. 9d nails are driven into the hardest wood at 80 p.s.i., with a single impact. 6d nails are driven into construction lumber at 50 p.s.i. No problem here with drive power. No need for air pressure over 90 p.s.i.

It is the time of the year when the driveways get soft and ruts begin to appear. There is a slip that states 4 loads of stone and gravel were purchased in March, at a cost of $216.34. Chain repair links, and hooks for chains were bought, as well as a gross of soap stone in stick size,5"x3/16x1/2"wide. The soap stone writes well on steel for marking for cutting, welding and bending. Supplies were purchased at this time, and included, 5/16" log chain a whole pail full for $42.77. Also purchased were electrical equipment, 10 pound of Nickel alloy welding rod, and 50 pound of #8 common nails.

The Terra-Trac fork lift needed some bearings replaced in the drive line, either, wheels or drive shaft type. $31.50 in expense for it.

Farm lumber sales for March were, Ed Dulle, $2.45 for 3-2x8x8', Robert Metcalf, 76' of Oak lumber, William Larowe, his logs, sawing, $37.16, Ed Koenig, 1-3x16x9', $3.03, Omer Mader, Oak lumber, $3.85, Lloyd Schrader, 20-1x5x14', $12.86., Ralph Newcomer, Oak fence lumber, $34.00.

Homer is using the backhoe to dig graves at Roselawn Cemetery, and he had 2, recently, @ $40 each.

Logs were purchased from Willian(Bill) Rosenberry, for $40.00. About every 3 months or so, there would be a purchase of various filters, light bulbs for the trucks, wiper blades, ignition points,condensers,flashers and related items. The sawmill equipment required having the parts on hand to quickly be replaced when needed. This time the monthly bill was $64.81 for this type of thing.

Homer is disappointed with the service and the cost of the Duo-Fast brand of staples and guns, and took a trial of one staple gun and 2 boxes of staples from the J.R. Hahn Co., dealing in Senco staplers and staples. The gun cost was $125.00 and the staples were $17 a box. He was not satisfied with these items and a month later it was all Duo-Fast again.

Ralph Hose began cutting timber in the woods, in late April of 1967, he is Harry Strong's brother-in-law. Francis Bell dropped a large plank on one of his fingers, and went to the DeKalb Memorial Hospital emergency room, the charge was $9.00.

Pallet production for March was, Dana, 1,100,pallets and 1,500 stakes, Hendrickson, 2,700 4x6 blocks, Sheller-Globe, 1,210 pallets, Bohn, 800 slats and blocks, Barney-Massa Construction Co, 2,134 board feet of 2" planking, Par-Tee, 200 pump bases, Crane-Edmund, 0 for the month, Earl Coplin, 132 pallets.

Pallet production for April was, Dana, 1,500 pallets and tops, 2,000 PE-1422, which is blocking. Hendrickson, 575 pallets, 2,100-4x6 pieces, Sheller-Globe, 650 pallets, Bohn, 300 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets, Farm lumber was, Robert Metcalf, 28-2x6x12', and 80 2x2x24" stakes, also 40-2x4x12', and120-1x2x16" long.

May begins with an order for 6-2x8x14' for Lloyd Corbin. A couple of days later, Bob Metcalf, ordered 60 sawhorses to set his dog kennel pens on. Homer quoted him a price of $2.00 a piece for them.

The new chain saw needs a new chain and sprocket, which was installed by Culbertson Sales and Service.

On May 9th. a price increase notice was sent to Dana, for their review and decision to accept or reject. The prices were to go into effect after the present orders were completed if they were accepted. All were accepted and the prices were as follows: PE-1414 shipping block, 16 cents each, PE-1415 shipping block, 10 cents a piece, PE-1407 pallet top, 70 cents each, PE-1406 pallet base, $1.75 each, PE-1405 pallet, $1.20, PE-1404 pallet top, $1.10 each, PE-1423 pallet top, 70 cents each, PE-1424 pallet bottom, $1.30 each, PE-1402 pallet, with 2-1/2" screw nails, $2.90 each, PE-1403 pallet bottom, $2.00 each.

Break time was approximately at 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. or just a little later. My mother always delivered it, and sometimes it varied a little. Cold or hot tea, water, or cocoa, and either a baked goodie or apples, and there were other items. It was always good and enjoyed by all. Sometimes Homer would get out his pocket knife and make small carved items. The ones we still have are, a 3" long ball bat, and a 1/2" diameter ball. Another was a 9" long rifle, and also a 2" long miniature square faced shovel, about 1/2" wide.

Harold W. Smith, picked up 38-1x5x16', Oak gate or fence boards. Sadie Tuttle picked up several misc. piles of lumber for general use. Sometimes the people needing lumber would do just what Sadie did. We had several, think 20 plus piles of lumber ready for sale in many various dimensions. And they would literally say, I need this and that over there, and those too.

The Richard Myers tract of timber is still being cut and hauled. Another check was written to catch up to date on what had been cut and hauled to the mill. There was never enough of a stock pile of items on hand at the mill to keep everything running smoothly. There is a slip noting that petty cash was used to purchase 10 pound of #7d box nails from The Auburn City Hardware, for $2.24. The fuel tanks are filled and it required 290 gallon in each tank, on a 3 week cycle. It has been about 3 weeks since the last purchase at Allison Corp., for spark plugs, auto light bulbs, oil filters, and fan belts. There is a new slip for $19.39 for these items.

Owen Eckert sold timber to Homer, and it was located North and slightly East of Auburn along Cedar Creek. There is a lot of Cottonwood and Soft maple in this tract, and on the higher ground there are several other species of trees.

There is a slip that notes the purchase of a used truck spring at Auburn Junk and Paper Co. Probably means one of the trucks has a broken spring. Next is a payment for 2,125 feet of 4" clay drain tile from The Krick-Tyndall Co. at Decatur, Indiana. Homer has a backhoe and there are several areas around the mill and log yard that need to be drained. The tile cost $205.00.

I was sent to Sutherland Lumber Co to pick up 60-1x12x16', for the small pine sticks used at Dana. It was 960 board feet and the cost was $137.09.

One of the 5 H P motors being used needed repairs, and it cost $48.50, the work was done by Bassett Electric Motor Repair Co. One of the vehicles needed a muffler and a socket for the socket set were purchased at Allison Corp. Also purchased at the same time was a MOPAR cast iron wheeled mechanics creeper for less than $10.00.

The pallet production for May is: Dana, 1,800 pallets, and 2,500 stakes and blocks, Hendrickson, 2,600 blocks, Sheller-Globe, 2,700 pallets, Bohn, 600 pallets, Cliff Hankey, 1,000 blocks 2x4x18", Crane Edmund, 200 pallets.

6-1-1967, gasoline fills, sawmill, 210 gallon, truck tank, 150 gallon. Truck insurance for the 1954 Chevy 1 ton truck was $21.00 for 6 months. Two pole light bulbs for $1.45 at the Auburn City Hardware. These bulbs were the Mercury-Vapor type.

Farm lumber for 4 different people, were Gene Dietrich, 22-1x6x16', $19.36, Darwin Provines, 4-2x6x18', $6.35, Gerald Smith, 2-6x6x12', $5.88, Franklin Boger, 4-2x4x8 and 5-4x4x10', $8.98, Orville Collins, 6-1x4x12', $2.69. The farm lumber is a very small part of the production.

Ash and Sugar Maple logs sold to Crook-Miller, in Hicksville, $137.27, for 1,550 feet of timber. They will be made into handle stock for pruners, and other handles.

Max Schiffli is working and is mostly making pallets for the present time. If pallets are slow, he is off-bearing the mill and edging fresh cut boards. The sawmill is needing parts for repairs, and they have come in. New wheels, pins and some "dog" repair parts. The parts came to $60.80. The main chainsaw needed several parts also, all of which get used a lot. A starter spring, compression relief valve, stop-start switch, a gasket and air filter, all small items but important.

Robert Surfus, purchased 3 clothes line posts, for $6.00, Orville Collins, 18-1x4x12', and 6-1x4x14', $11.00,

Gasoline for the mill , 290 gallon and truck, 250 gallon on the 21st. The backhoe front loader bucket needed to be replaced and Homer found a good used one in Hicksville at the Camp Farm Equipment Co. for $50.00. On June 20th, I was sent to The Andersons, to pick up motor oil, 20 gallon of 10-w-30 and 10 gallon of 20-w, which would mean I took the car. The oil was about $4.50 for each 5 gallon metal can. The monthly electric bill is staying in the $28-30 per month area. The backhoe tractor needs a gear for the transmission and some seals to finish the repair. Cost was, $29.88 for the parts. Homer was in Fort Wayne and went to Mossman-Yarnelle Co. He purchased 2-6" c-clamps, 2-boxes of 20 Amp fuses, a dozen 10" mill files, 6 file handles. Total was $21.25. He also had the radiator for the Continental mill engine re-cored, as the vibration had gotten to it's original radiator. Cost was $127.31.

Harry Hefty bought fence boards, 30-1x5x16', 70-1x4x16', For $63.00, Dale Gafken, 6-2x10x14', 9-2x8x14', 1-2x6x14, for$33.44. Vernon Kline, 12-2x10x14, 12-2x8x14, $56.55.

Homer has been taking care of Roselawn Cemetery and has had 4 graves to dig and other labor in a period of 2 months as well as his major work at the sawmill.

Pallets for June, Dana, 2,990, blocking, 1,500, Hendrickson, 2,472 blocks, many were 4x6",24 and 29" long. Sheller-Globe, 575 pallets, Bohn, 600 pallets, Cliff Hankey, 1,000 2x4x18", Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets. The first of the companies that the mill supplied, Par-Tee, stopped ordering in April of this year, and I think I missed noting that at that time. Homer has been put in contact with a man in Hoagland, Indiana who has a steam sawmill. I believe he visited him about this time of the year. This story will get a lot more interesting very soon. Up to now, it is very uninteresting to report daily work.

The trucks are all in the same class as far as insurance, they all cost the same every 6 months. The 1962 Dodge 500, 1-1/2 ton truck was paid on the first of July, for $21.00. The new order from the mill supplier, McHugh Dist. Co. in Lansing, was sent. The saw teeth, lumber crayons, files, and other items. The total for items was $82.76.

The timber at Richard Myers woods is still being cut and hauled. Richard also had some of the logs sawed for lumber to build framing and gate lumber. All of the rest of the timber will be sold to the sawmill. A partial payment was made early this month.

The day is Friday July 7, 1967, and we have just stopped sawing for the day and my father and I are sitting discussing the work that will need to be done and where we are in the pallet production. I am probably going to be there the next day, and we are catching up on our jobs. All of a sudden we smell smoke and before I can move, my father jumps up and grabs an old jacket that is laying about 15 feet away and climbs up on the edger out feed table and throws the jacket over the large 10 H.P. Electric motor that runs the edger. In a matter of a few seconds the fire is out. The motor is an open frame motor and fine air born sawdust has caught afire. Thankfully we were there or we would have lost the building. We continued to use the motor, but after that it was cleaned every day with air pressure. We never had any more fires in that motor.

The mill gasoline tank required 280 gallon and the truck tank, 210 on the 7th. While I am talking about fuel, I will note that 2 trips were made to Portland, to Sheller-Globe with pallets. One on the July 11, and another July 17. One trip required 11.1 gallon and the other 11.7 gallon, both times purchased in Berne, Indiana, for the return trip home. Petty cash was used for these purchases of fuel.

Petty cash was used for many small purchases, stamps, legal size envelopes, chain saw files when Homer was in need of one while out cutting logs, sometimes it was tools and hitch pins. The sawmill was using hitch pin for all trailer pulls, and had not converted to ball hitches. The ones we were using were 8" long and we never lost a trailer. Most of the time there was a hole bored in the end near the bottom and a wire was put in the hole and twisted, some times it was a 8d nail or if the hole would accept it, a 16d spike.

The Vernon Whitman timber cut has been finished and the last payment made. The purchases from Culbertson Welding and Repair, now have a 10% discount noted when purchasing larger parts for the chainsaws,like chains and bars. The July electric bill was only$25.31. Homer was at an auction somewhere and bought a heavy vice for $25, and a wrench set for $8.00. The mill fuel was filled on July 28, and it took 263 gallon, the truck tank needed 125 gallon.

The timber cut at Eckert,s is finished and a new job will start at Robert Surfus woods. Ash logs that Crook & Son in Hicksville,( used to be Crook-Miller Co.) could not use for handles were purchased, for $422.15, which means there was more than one load of logs.

There is a slip for Allison Corp. , for ignition wrenches,points, spark plugs, enamel paint, Proto Co. sockets, which totaled $57.32.

Howard Troyer purchased farm lumber, 3/8" thick to make more potato crates, for $10.00, Lester Meschberger bought 11 2x6x12', for$13.13, William Burns, 30-2x4x16, 32-2x5x12, 2-1x5x12" for $65.00, Don Johnson bought 12-1x4x16' for $8.18.

July pallet production was: Dana, 1,979 pallets and 1,500 blocking pieces, Hendrickson, 150 pallets and 400 heavy blocks, Sheller-Globe, 690 pallets, Bohn, none this month, Coplin, 112 pallets.

We are going to miss Max Schiffli, he is going to work for the railroad. He was a really good worker. He was working for the sawmill until he could find the right job. Jack Steckley, was the next one to come to work at the mill. He was with the mill for 3 weeks.

Four loads of Hard Maple and Ash were sold to Crook and Son in Hicksville. The average board feet in each log was 140. Most of the time, if there was quality timber in a woods, it was sold to one of the other mills. The exception was White Oak, because there was always a market for it to the farmers around the area for gates or construction.

The nail gun is being used more now, because the Dana PE-1402 pallet is being made now, this is the industrial standard size pallet, 40x48", with 1" boards on the top and bottom. 10 cartons of the Duo-Fast pointless nails, 2-3/8" long were ordered. Note that the pointless nails push the wood out of the way rather than spreading the wood, which tends to split the wood.

I have a note, I wish it was more specific, that a truck axle was purchased, used, for $5.00 at the junk yard. It was on a slip that says petty cash was used to purchase it, with no other comment. Also a slip from Allison Corp, that 2 Gates Co. pulleys and center hubs were purchased, for $15.80.

On August 14, 1967, Homer entered into an agreement with Clayton Mitchner, Joann Hollinger, and Juanita Ringler to purchase timber. The agreement reads as follows: Agreed, Abel's Sawmill will buy standing timber- 3- tracts adjacent to roads #45, and 56 on farm owned by the above-- formerly the Shilling Farm. Full price $2,100.00 , ½ to be paid at signing of agreement, balance within 60 days. ½ in 3 separate checks day of agreement, and signed by all parties. Note at bottom of agreement says, "Timber to be removed within one year." This was one of the more serious agreements he signed, most were a hand shake and a verbal agreement was made to pay. Those agreements were frequently that payment would be made as the timber was cut and hauled, or verbally agreed to be paid when the job was done. Some of the small jobs were paid on the spot if it was only going to be $100-150.

I was sent to Angola to Alwood Tractor Sales to pick up repair parts for the Ford backhoe tractor. It appears to have been for an axle spindle, 2 seals and a bearing. The total cost was $24.90. I know specifically when I personally went to pick up something, because my hand writing is on the check.

The fuel tanks were filled again, and the truck tank required 225 gallon and the mill tank, 290 gallon. The Senco staple gun is still in use, because there were 10 cartons of staples ordered for it. There is a slip that notes that the Richard Myers tract of timber is finished, and a note on the slip says there was a deduction of $50 for damage to corn from a tree falling in the field.

There were 2 farm lumber sales. John Dapp, 2-6x6x12', 4-2x6x14', 10-2x4x14', 20-2x4x12', for a total of $40.80. Victor Timmerman, 2-4x6x10', for $4.08.

August pallets, Dana, 1,400 pallets, of which 400 were the PE-1402 HEAVY Duty, we only stacked them 12 high by hand, Hendrickson, 3,400 blocking pieces, Sheller-Globe, 350 pallets, Bohn, 200 pallets, and 200 slats for separation, Cliff Hankey 500 2x4x18".

I was been very busy operating the sawmill and making pallets, and not paying a lot of attention to the things going on around the sawmill operation. I was aware that my father was planning to build a new sawmill but, I was not yet actively involved. Over the last weeks, Homer has been busy, laying drainage tile and many other things. There was a 2" steel casing water well put down, way back beyond the present sawmill, on the side of a small hill. Also he had been making plans for the new sawmill building. He had already made verbal plans to purchase the steam sawmill several months ago and had done all of the Millwright measurements and dimensions for the building, both the boiler and the sawmill. There was a drawing, to scale for all of the items that would be installed. The sawmill building will be 32'x80', with a building for the boiler measuring 22'x26', and the two buildings would join at the South end of the 80' section. The boiler section would join the longer building on the Southeast corner of the long section, making an L-shaped building. The whole building would have concrete footers, with concrete blocks laid up to support the wooden frame structure.

Homer went to Hoagland, Indiana, and watched the steam powered sawmill operate. The owner, Henry Moldthan, got it all up and ready to go and they sawed a load of logs Homer had brought down. Mr. Moldthan gave Homer all the operating procedure instructions and let him saw some with the mill. The mill was located in the tri-angle between the railroad, Minnich and Hoagland road, in Hoagland, on the North side of town. Homer told Mr. Moldthan, he would get back with him in a few days.

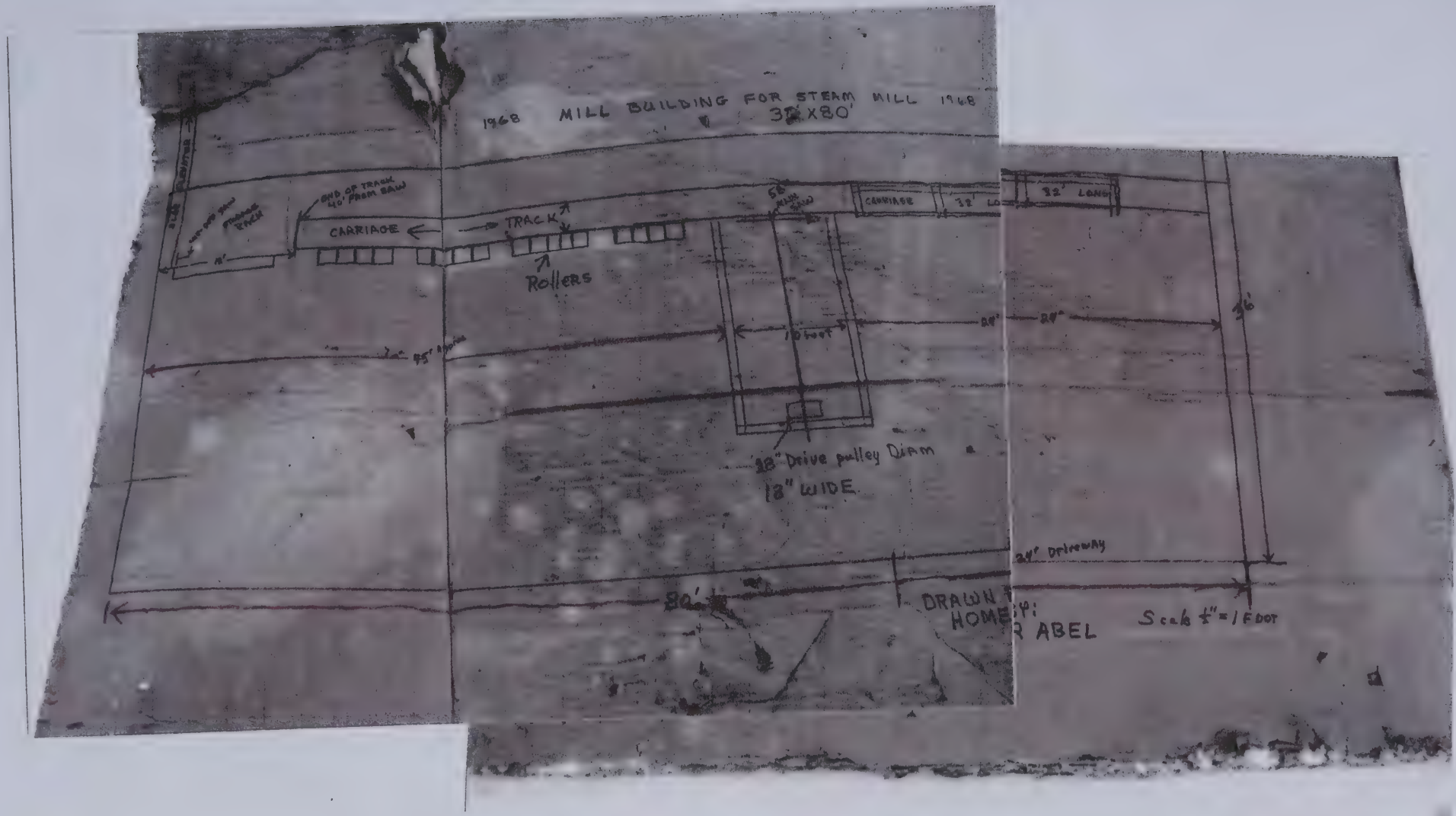
A notice came in the mail early in September, stating that Auburn's ZIP CODE would be 46706, and gave instructions about this change in the U.S. Postal System's operating system.

The other big news was Homer had decided that the 1964 Volkswagen would be replaced by a new 1967 model. One of the reasons was the new one would have the 53 H. P. Engine. The other reason was the new one would have a better braking system. The dusty gravel roads were taking a toll on the 1964 model's brakes and shock system. The new Volkswagen was delivered on September 5, 1967.

On September 11, 1967, Homer went to Hoagland and paid Mr. Moldthan $1,000, or ½ of the total for the steam sawmill, With the other ½ due on January 2, 1968. The agreement states that: Henry Moldthan agrees to sell his sawmill to Homer Abel, for $2,000. This includes mill, 2-58" insert saws, top saw, log-turning winch, boiler, steam engines, and pipes, stack, drive belts, pulleys, and shafting,slab elevators, and sawdust blower. This was signed by both parties.

The new order for saw teeth, (bits), and shanks, (tooth holders), came from Ray E. McHugh Co. The shanks, 28 were ordered and they were $1.24 each, the saw teeth, 400-of 3-9-9/32" were ordered, and they were .1586 cents each, and edger teeth were 2-1/2-10-1/4", were .1586 cents each. It was noted that there would be a price increase at the next order for these items.

Homer purchased timber from Earnest Byroade, $382.65 for 15,306 board feet of scale. The sawing that Homer had Mr. Moldthan do cost $40.00. The fuel tanks were filled on 9-18-1967, the mill needed 288 gallon , truck tank, 190 gallon. The Liability Insurance for the mill for a year at this time was, $521.53. This policy was an assigned risk type, which is used by mining and other high risk work operations. Timber was purchased from Violet Basse, one half of total was paid at this time in the amount of $500 dollars. I specifically mention this purchase because it was along Cedar Creek and was all cottonwood timber. Over 90% of the new sawmill building would be constructed with Cottonwood lumber. A lot of the construction material was sawed into 2x4", 2x6", 2x8", and 2x10" wide lumber.




Homer's drawing of the mill and where the "Husk" would set. Only drawing he made.

There has not been a real show of what goes on in the sawmill on a day to day basis. I'm going to try to give an honest picture of that now. I will start with September 21,1967, after checking the truck for fuel, lights, oil, and tire pressures, I will be loading 350 pallets, noted as 16-P pallets for Sheller-Globe Corp. in Portland, Indiana. They will be delivered by Homer, and when he gets there, he will deliver the shipping slip to the receiving clerk, who will sign it. Homer will then go to the designated unloading area, where a lift driver will unload them. However, sometimes there is a delay, because the lift driver is not yet available. This is thinking time for whoever is delivering. And sometimes it also means stopping on the way back for parts or materials in Fort Wayne.

While these things are being done, I am getting the other men started on making pallets for one of the other customers. As soon as this is done I will go to checking out the sawmill. All of the fluids are checked in the mill engine, also included is checking the supply fuel tank for the mill. The sawmill is lubricated, (greased), the belts are checked for wear or joints,(belt lacing), various other checks of the carriage cable,wheels. The saw teeth, will either need sharpened or replaced. It is rare that the teeth are sharpened at the end of a previous day. It takes about 20 minutes to change the teeth, or 10 minutes to sharpen them. The edger also needs to be checked over and greased, maybe sharpened or the teeth replaced. The sawdust drag needs to be greased, and test run. Next is the cutoff saw, grease and check the teeth for sharpness. If sharpening is needed it must be done with a file, the saw is a solid tooth type. The belts are V- type for this saw, and they get a lot of cutting time while the mill is running, so slabs and pallet material can be cut with it. Next is checking to see if the slab elevator is ready to use, grease and test run. Is the dump truck ready under the slab elevator? Does it have room for more wood or does it need to be emptied?

Next is getting the logs on the log deck for sawing. Sometimes the logs are loaded the evening before, if it is known what will be needed, so if not loaded, , are there logs of the proper length ready to get in the log yard? Quite often the logs need to be cut to length. Logs coming into the mill are various mixed lengths, anywhere from 8'plus to as much as 28' long. The skill is to waste as small an amount as possible. At this time, the mill has lengths of pallet material from 18" to 51" , with about 11 or 12 lengths in between. This time the length needed is a multiple of either 38" or 40" long. The next order for pallets is Bohn Aluminum and Brass Co. pallets. 3 different parts go into these pallets, 3x3x3" square blocks, 1/2x4"x38", and 1/2x4x40". The 3x3's can be made out of any harder species of wood, and can be any reasonable length log. When making short pieces like blocks, we can use up those logs that are not right for other longer specific pieces. When measuring, you need to measure the cut off log at the shortest point of one end to the shortest point of the other end. Straight cutting is important.

Sometimes, the chain saw is not ready to cut and needs the chain tightened, sharpened, or fueled. There is also the possibility that there is not enough mixed fuel in the can for the saw. At that time it was a mix of 40 to 1 fuel and oil. The chain oiler also needs to be checked. Now that we have done this much, the forklift also needs to be checked for fluids, air in tires. The consideration of species for the 1/2" boards can be, Cottonwood, Basswood, Soft Maple, or any other material that is not subject to splitting. I have located, cut and hauled logs to the mill deck, and will be ready when the present pallet making is finished.

The next pallet order will be for Dana and they will need PE-1405 pallets. So while the others are finishing making pallets I will be getting the logs ready for that material. It will be in multiples of 35", both for runners and top and bottom pallet boards.

The orders for Bohn and Dana will be due Monday-Thursday, on September 25,26,27,28th. Dana, the last 3 days.

The pallet material sawing began after lunch and continued all the rest of the day except for break time at about 3:00. After Homer got back, he brought in more logs to saw and then started making a list of the nails, bolts, nuts and washers that would be needed for the construction of the new mill building. The sill plates would be White Oak 2x8" by various lengths and the posts for the wall would be 3 pieces of 2x8"x 12' long. The posts would be 2 pieces 12' long with a shorter one, between, in the center, that would accept a 10" high truss end, inserted in the short space, and bolted with 1/2" bolts 8 inches long. The trusses would be put in place with the Terra-Trac forklift which had a lift ability of 20'. The building would be built before the inside concrete work for the mill and steam engine was poured. This would make the trusses easy to install. When all the trusses were installed, the 2x4" linear pieces would be installed, running the length of the building on 24 inch spacing apart. This would allow the roofing to be installed on the roof line, but first there was a complete layer of 1/2" black insulation board installed on the whole roof line to keep condensation from falling on the inside of the building. This was the single largest building project my father had ever built. His intention was for this to be in every way his last, and a permanent mill.

There were 3 part time people that came either in the afternoon after their regular job, or after school. Alva Crabill, and John Means came after their regular jobs, and John's son, Roger Means came after school. They frequently made pallets when they came, so either my father or myself got them started on the pallet work. The 2 older men also worked in the mill area if they were needed to cut pallet material or off bear the mill. During this period of time they frequently helped Homer with the work involved with the new mill construction. I personally, almost never helped with the construction, perhaps, 5-6 days altogether.

To continue, The sawmill operated all day on the next day, September 22, making the pallet lumber for the next week. On a good full day of 7 hours of sawing we would saw 8,000-11,000 board feet of lumber. The qualification about this is, that we sawed a tremendous quantity of ½" and 5/8" lumber for the pallet tops and bottoms. Lumber that is sawed in those sizes, is counted as being 1" thick for calculating board feet of material. Essentially when you saw 2 pieces of 1/2" material, you are sawing 2 pieces out of a 1" board and getting double the footage. It is not cheating, it is the standard in the industry. I f, on a day when we sawed all day, there were enough people, someone was making pallets too. We also had other things going on each week, logs were being delivered, and they had to be scaled, or measured with a rule for the board beet in the logs, and that being recorded , so there was a record of how much was received and the cutter and the skidder-hauler could be paid. Two or three times a week, there would be a public service job, we would load sawdust on wagons, trucks, and trailers for local small farmers that had cattle and used the sawdust for bedding. A couple of times each week, there would be some one wanting to purchase some of the stock, gate boards, or framing lumber. That was not really a money maker, but it served as a good will gesture on our part. In the long run, it was often these people who sold timber to us along the way.

By this time, I was working at least 4 hours on Saturday, frequently making pallets, especially if we were behind on being ready for deliveries. We had established an agreement with our main customer, Dana, and we could make ahead on their products. This was done with a (blanket order) for so many to be made ahead until the order was filled, then Dana would sent a new blanket order. This process worked very well, and gave us some stability in decisions of when and what to make for them.

The mill did not operate on Sunday's, and the only time there was any sawmill activity on Sunday, was when Dana actually ran out of something and sent their van out to pick up a few, (around 20) pallets to get through until we delivered on the next day. That only happened like 6 or 8 times in our whole relationship with them.

On Monday morning, 9-25-1967, the first thing that happened was to load up 350 block type pallets for Bohn, they were 38"x40" in size and the top had 7 boards and the bottom had 3 boards, making it so they could be stacked off-set, one right side up and the next upside down. It was then possible to stack almost double the pallets in the space, as the stack went up. This load left the mill about 7:30-8:00 and usually the truck would return by 11:00.

While this load was gone, some of us were making pallets and at least one person was in the log yard getting logs ready to saw in the afternoon. Everybody was getting settled into their jobs, when Clifford Hankey arrived to pick up his pallet of 2x4x18" long blocking. Either Homer or myself went to load his pallet onto his truck. There were 1,000 pieces on his pallet. That was done and back to the job. One of the farmers came and wanted sawdust loaded on his farm wagon, mission accomplished.

We sawed lumber in the afternoon, and someone made pallets for tomorrows delivery to Dana. The sawing went well and one of the men hauled the cut up pallet material into the front building, where it would be sorted and made into pallets. This process usually meant moving pallet material on wooden carts, that had cast iron wheels and could be rolled on the concrete floor easily. The other thing that was happening when lumber was being ripped with the edger, was the small edgings that were cut off to square up the lumber were placed on a pallet that had been converted by stapling 4 slats on the outside 4 corners of the pallet. This made a way to stabilize the scrap, and some of it was used in the winter to keep fire in the wood stove, and some was laid back to be used as cover in soft weather in the log yard when it got soft. When not needed, it was stockpiled outside for later use. The side slats were never taller than 36".

The Dana load was loaded late in the afternoon and was ready for Tuesday's delivery. It consisted of 100 PE-1404 pallet tops, and 175 PE-1405 pallets. We were using chain and (boomer) binders to secure the pallets. Most of the chain was 1/4" or 5/16" diameter chain, and all of us that handled the chains, coiled up about 3 loops of chain and tossed it over the top of the pallets. Most of the time, the chain would get over far enough to reach it on the other side. Over time we all got very good at hitting the target stack of pallets. Most of the time our trucks had a 1/4"x 4" steel band along the side of the bed. This made it possible for one person to secure the chain, so it would not come unhooked when pulling it up tight. If this option was not available, it required 2 people to secure a load.

The 25th. started out kind of cool, at 34 degrees, per weather from 1948 to 2020, this is still the record cold for that date. The load left the mill about 7:30. The receiving clerk, Leroy Pence, signed the shipping ticket and the truck was driven down the driveway between Rieke Corp. and Dana, to an overhead door. The driver usually had to go just inside the door and get the attention of one of the press operators nearby. He would take his air hose with an air chuck blow device on it and blow across a ¼" to 1/2" bored hole in the framework of the press to make a shrill whistle, which the fork lift drivers would hear above the noise in the plant. This was when the chucks were not yet reduced to 35 psi. It usually only took about 20 minutes to get unloaded at Dana. Sometimes if I delivered, I would be given a list of items to go get at Allison's or some where else. On this day it was, right back to the mill and get ready to sort and scale logs, or whatever else needed done.

The present crew of people working full and part time are as follows: Homer Abel,owner, sawyer, millwright, lead of building construction,general in charge, my mother, G'Nell Abel, owner, office, phone, and break time supplier of a lot of good cookies and treats,and hot tea, George Abel, sawyer, pallet maker, log scaler, Ralph Hose, timber cutter, Harry Strong, log skidder- hauler, pallet maker, Jack Steckley, pallets, Roger Means, pallets, Alva Crabill, pallets and offbearer-edgerman, Francis Bell, pallets and helping with new construction, pallet maker, Roger Means, pallets, John Means, pallets and new construction, DuWayne Goings, sawmill offbearer, edger, and pallets, Floyd Myers, off-bearer, pallet material cutter, edger man, mortar mixer for construction, and pallet maker, Burnard Slone,casual labor, pallets, some of the people only worked 10 hours per week, but they helped the mill stay on top of all that was going on. A total of 14 at this time, even I did not realize that there were that many.

Sept 27th. another load for Dana, 100-PE-1403 pallets, and 75-PE-1405 pallets, were delivered in the morning and tomorrow will be another load to Dana, 100-PE-1406 pallets, and 100-PE-1407 pallet tops. The material has been sawed, but has to be made into pallets and tops.

The afternoon, Thursday, was back to the sawmill to make material for next week. Looking ahead at the delivery slips, next week will have loads going to Dana, 2 loads, Crane-Edmund, 1 load, and New Haven Wire, 1 load. This is how it goes every week, plus the new building and all of the other items that need taken care of. As I noted above, some of the part time people were sometimes helping with the new building. The building material is about ½ sawed and stacked waiting to be used.

The bolts,washers, and nuts for the building of the posts to support the trusses and the sill plates were purchased on the 28th. 350Bolts of 3 lengths, 10 lbs of flat washers, and 75 lag screws were purchased for $30.00. Homer, purchased these items.

The purchase agreement for the Basse timber is as follows: Abel's Sawmill, agrees to pay $1,000 for 187 trees on the Marvin Basse property, located on the corner of Co. Rd. 19 and 66. $500 cash advance and balance by November 16, 1967. Logs are to be removed within one year, with reasonable care taken not to destroy other trees or damage property in any way. Mr. Basse will grant right of way to get the logs. No walnut trees to be taken. Signed by both parties, on the 28th. I include these hand written agreements to show how Homer did business.

I had the privilege of going to Fort Wayne to pick up the Pine boards to make Dana Corp. PE-1422, strips, at Sutherland Lumber Co., on the 28th. It was rare to be able to get these boards all in one dimension of material. This time I got 14-1x12x16', and 21-1x10x16'. While I was away on this trip, Homer had the help of some of the men, working on the new building.

Harry Strong, was busy delivering Ash and Hard Maple to Crook & Son, in Hicksville. He also made two trips with pallet logs to the sawmill, on the 28th.

I have not entered the farm lumber in the above work list for the week. Sept. 6, Orville Collins, 100' of gate material, $11.22, same day, Samuel Eberly, 160' of lumber, $16.32, Sept. 12, Herbert Mertens, 5-1x6x16', 20-1x6x14', $18.36, Sept. 13, Glen Myers, 7-2x8x16, 12-2x10x10', $38.39, 9-16-1967, Earl Butler, 25-2x8x14, $51.00, 9-21-1967, Neil Prentiss, 1-2x8x14, $3.03, on the 25th, Wilbur Walter, 14-2x4x14, $15.99, on the 29th, Maurice Terry, 20-1x5x14', $11.60, on the 30th. Robert Prosser, Jr. 8-8x8x12', $40.80. As is evident, there were a lot of times this month, that either Homer or myself had to take care of these customers, as well as the pallet work and the process of the new building.

The total pallet production for September follows, Dana, 1,834 pallets and tops, Hendrickson, 250 pallets, and 1,780 4x6" blocks, Sheller-Globe, the last pallets for them of 350 pallets, Bohn, 400 pallets, and 200 packing strips, Clifford Hankey, 1,500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 300 pedal pallets, 100 seat link pallets, 100 kick stand pallets.

September was one of the biggest months we had had up to this point, in pallet production. It appears, that Homer talked with our customers, especially Dana, and they agreed to take extra pallets in September, so we could have a few days of freedom to work on the new building project, because there were no pallet deliveries again until the 10th of October, a space of 7 work days. I wrote about several things concerning production during one week, and probably will not write as much on that topic for a while, as it becomes same old,same old.

The foundation work for the new building is under way, with the footers having been dug and the forms built. The first concrete was delivered on October 3rd., 10 cubic yards, at $15 per yard. This was delivered in 2- 5 yard loads. The concrete blocks were delivered on the 4th, 675-8x8x16" blocks and 30- 8x8x8"-1/2 blocks, 25- sacks of mortar, and 1-1/3 cubic yard of masonry sand These Items, $226. The walls were laid up, by Homer, with Floyd Myers mixing the mortar.

The next order of staples for pallets came in and this included 3 different sizes of O-rings for the staple guns, at no charge. I had mentioned earlier that we eventually came to agreement with Duo-Fast, that we had to have a stock of repair parts on hand, with out cost to be able to keep the guns in repair. This is the first time there was a printed note stating that there was no cost for the parts.

On October 7th, I took a trip to The Andersons, to pick up 30 gallon of motor oil, a case of Anti-freeze, and pole barn spikes, 2 sizes, and more bolts, nuts and washers for the construction of the new building. There was a change in the assigned risk liability insurance, to Statesman Insurance Company. I believe it was an anniversary period and the previous company did not want to continue servicing us.

The fuel tanks were filled on the 17th. Truck tank 230 gallon, Mill tank 290. The other ½ of the payment for Mitchner-Ringler-Hullinger, tract of timber was due and paid. Parts, for brakes on one of the trucks, and2 v-belts from Allison Corp. $11.52. There were 2 loads of bricks purchased from Cecil Ramsey for $50 per load. Cecil was a salvage contractor. He had all kinds of building materials available for sale. These bricks would be used for part of the construction of the chimney base and for extras for the boiler re-set construction. The boiler was completely bricked in on all sides, and not all of the original bricks could be re-used.

The October farm lumber was as follows. Robert Prosser,Jr, Duwayne Goings, Clarence Bry Jr, Bassett,Charles Trumbull, Bernard Lemper, Ora Lyons. They bought a total of about $55.00 of matl.

October pallets production, Dana, 1,700 pallets and 1,000 stakes, Crane-Edmund, 665 pallets, New Haven Wire 100 pallets.

I had mentioned W.G. Runkles Machinery Co. some time back, and noted their catalog had all kinds of woodworking equipment, but I had not seen any evidence Homer had used it. On November 4th he did, and ordered a 5' long cant hook handle and 2 of the Walnut lumber marking crayon holders, which I still use to this day. Those 3 items were $8.26.

Parts and materials, for the new building and the sawmill, one can of blue spray paint,$2.43, for the Dana, PE-1403 pallet, so it can be known it is not a PE-1402 pallet, their top material is different, but to the casual observer they look alike. The blue paint was sprayed on one of the outside runners on each end of the pallet. The blue one has 5/8" material and the other one has 7/8" material. Ignition parts for one of the trucks, an oil line, and a Proto tool, $8.42. Chainsaw repairs and parts, $12.32. 140 concrete blocks to finish the block walls of the new building, mortar, and masonry sand, through December 6th. $35.90. Gasoline for mill,on 11-22, 270 gallon, truck tank, 150 gallon.

November farm lumber, James Warstler, 77 pieces of 1x6 lumber in various lengths, Ed Carper, Robert Page, minor amount of material, Cletus Miller, of Woodburn, pre- cut to length, material for 50 more seed corn and bean pallets, $155.00.

Pallet production for November, Dana, 1,422 pallets, 1,500 stakes and blocks, Hendrickson, 1,864 4x6"divider blocks, Bohn, 200 pallets, Cliff Hankey, 1,000 blocks, Crane-Edmund 235 pallets, New Haven, 150 pallets.

The back of the new November 1967 phone book, has a list of the regularly called phone numbers. The people and businesses listed are as follows: Cletus Miller, Myers Implement, Avilla, Hart's Auto Parts in Cecil,Oh, Howard Squires sawmill, K&L wood products, Hamilton, Sutherland Lumber, Fred Knowles, timber buyer, Hamilton, John Harper, Ray McHugh, Lansing, Industrial Tractor and Equipment, Fort Wayne, Summit City Radiator, Fort Wayne, Allwood Tractor Sales, Angola, Brindle Equip, Avilla. The last one, listed, we used parts from a combine, right angle drive,from straw spreader.

As we enter December, it has become a rush to finish the foundation and block work before serious freezing weather. On the 2nd, there was a total of 1-1/2" of rain. A record for that day, that still stands, going back as far as 1948.

DeWayne Baker, came over and gave Homer a list of material for framing up a utility shed, on the farm where he had recently built a barn from Oak lumber we had sawed. The building was to be 28'x60' in size. The total cost for the material was, $356.51. The total board feet of material was, 3241'. There were 4 loads of pallets delivered on December 1-6, 1967. Dana, 2, Hendrickson,1, Crane-Edmund, 1 load.

On the 11th., Homer, went to Mossman Yarnelle Co. and purchased all the material for the electric in the new building. Also, the drill bits he would need,for boring holes to bolt everything together, in the building. A set of impact wrench sockets from 7/16"-1-1/4", a 24" Cresent wrench, a reverse twist 5/8"-1" reamer, more bolts, and 50 pound of welding rods. These items cost $175.00. This same trip, he delivered 100 pallets to New Haven Wire and Cable.

Tuesday the 12th., pallets to Bohn, Dana, the 13th, Clifford Hankey picked up 500 blocks, the 15th, Dana a load. Homer took the load to Dana on Tuesday, and stopped at Smith and Moore, and picked up a tank of both Oxygen and Acetylene, they cost $3.45, and $6.50 respectively. On the 15th. The fuel was filled , mill, 210 gallon, truck, 290 gallon.

Pallets for week of December 18-22nd., were Dana 3 loads, Hendrickson, 1 load.

December 28rd, Homer bought an old Russell steam tractor boiler, and a 1951 Ford truck chassis. The boiler was mounted on that frame. All he got was the boiler part of the unit. It had been used as a steam cleaning unit. The boiler # was 17,_ _ _, the rest was lost. It had 2" flues, and Homer never used it for anything. It cost him $65.00, junk price. That same day Homer went to the Anderson's, where he bought motor oil, a battery, 3 sizes of nails and spikes. He spent $81.00.

December 18th, we sent an order to Ray E. McHugh Co, for 600 saw bits, a dozen mill files, and a dozen chainsaw files. The cost was $115,95. The invoice noted that there would be a 5% increase in the cost of the saw bits after January 1st, 1968. The bits were presently $ .1665 per tooth.

There were two loads of pallets delivered in the last week of December, one to Dana, and one to Bohn. Cliff Hankey picked up a pallet of blocking material. Homer purchased 3,700' of logs from Bob Shuff, for $185.00 on the 29th, which amounts to 2 plus loads of logs.

Pallets to Dana on the 29th, and the delivery person went to Auburn City Hdwe. to get supply parts.

Homer finished hauling the logs from Ralph Newcomer's. Ralph was clearing a small woods at the corner of roads 41 and 50 in the northeast corner, to farm it. There was a total of 12,884' of logs from there. Homer paid $322.10 for the logs. Glen Shultz had Homer saw 2,900' of lumber from logs he had delivered. The charge was $116.00 It has been a very busy and profitable year.

1968

As 1968 begins, Homer is keeping a journal, very brief at times but there is a lot of information. Note: The story vacillates between tenses and pronouns as I write this. Much of this comes from Homer's journals, in 1968, 1974 and 1975. I have not edited it, so that is the way it is.

Monday January 1, 1968 begins with Homer and Francis Bell sawing in the forenoon, and they made pallets in the afternoon. They also cleaned up, preparing for the next day. I was not there that day.

January 2, Homer notes that there was a full crew, & that we sawed and sorted logs in the morning. In the afternoon the crew made pallets.

At the time the mill cash flow was weak. Money was borrowed from the DeKalb Co. Farm Bureau Credit Union to pay for the steam mill Homer had agreed to purchase last September.

Home went to Hoagland in the afternoon, and paid the balance of the money due for the steam mill and it's parts. The remaining amount was $1,000.00. Mr. Moldthan had other items that he sold that day as well. There were saw teeth and shanks, for an additional $90.54. On his way home, Homer stopped at Fort Wayne and traded in one of the older staple guns on a new one and he only paid $25.00 difference. His notes say that it was a nice day, just below freezing.

Because the sawmill was selling to the public, we were required to have a Registered Retail Certificate each year. That way the sales tax from our end user sales would be collected for Indiana. The state charged $3.00 for the certificate, so we could display it.

January 3, Homer wrote that George sawed and Norm Gerig started working at the sawmill. A load of pallets was delivered to Dana, Homer sorted logs and nailed pallets. It was 11 degrees this evening. DuWayne Goings and his wife Sandy, and son Todd came to visit Homer and G'Nell this evening.

January 4, 1968, Leonard Fisher purchased gate lumber, $31.42. We sawed Soft maple and Burr Oak, good day, in spite of the cold- a high of 5 degrees above. Sawed approx 2,500' of lumber scale today. The staple guns do not work very well, though. Stopped at supper time and stayed in, Brrrr. The next day, Friday, Homer says, sawed all day, made pretty good time.

Saturday the 6th, I will remember for the rest of my life. I was on my way to work and coming South on Co. Rd. 41 toward 50, when I realized I was going too fast and was not going to get stopped or make the corner to the East. God provided, because, I had absolutely no control of where I was going to go. I went straight off the end, about 2 or 3 feet West of a steel railroad iron set in concrete, and to the East of that was a light pole. The stop was still sudden and HARD. The roadside ditch was the stopper. Slightly bent bumper, and a destroyed radiator, damaged on the bottom. I was not hurt, and walked to the neighbors to the West, the Jump's, and called my dad. He comes and gets me out and pulled the car to the sawmill, a little over a mile away. I would be driving one of the trucks from the mill till the car was repaired. He goes back and fixes the fence. The fence was made of woven 1-3/4" chicken wire, which he had put in some years earlier. The fence was keeping rabbits in the field, for Beagle dogs to chase out, and had to be kept intact. After that it was on with the day.

Homer and Norm Gerig got logs at Cloyd Anderson's, 2 loads and went back to get the skidding tractor and something broke on the trailer hitch. The trailer was still able to be towed, so they brought it back. Francis Bell and I made pallets while they were getting logs and the trailer. Homer's comments do not say that he repaired the trailer hitch that day. Homer comments, that it was some warmer today.

Monday, January 8th. Homer comments, cold again today, George sawed, DuWayne Goings and I sorted logs, made good progress. I needed to go to Summit City radiator, and pick up a new radiator, ($44.37.) for my car. So while I was in Fort Wayne, I also went to Sutherland Lumber and purchased the pine lumber for the Dana stick, spacer lumber. Thankfully I could install it myself. (Writing this in 2020) Even if I had the tools, now, I would not tackle this because of current space restraints.

Tuesday, it's 13 degrees this morning, and it warmed up some during the day. Homer sawed and Francis Bell nailed pallets. Norm Gerig delivered a load to Dana, at noon. Homer had repaired the trailer hitch by this time, and Francis Bell was having sewer problems. At the time he was living in the house in the curve, on Co. Rd. 46-A, Southeast of Auburn. So Homer loads the back hoe after 4:30 and goes to help Francis find and repair the problem. Homer got back home at 7:30, and made the comment, "Hardest dirt I ever saw" It was yellow clay and frozen, considering the temperatures Homer had commented about. Homer said they were not finished yet.

Wednesday, Moderately cold, but a nice day. Gasoline tanks filled, Truck, 225 gallon, Mill tank, 250, gallon. Fuel truck also topped off the fuel oil tank, (150 gallon), for the space heaters we were using to keep the staple guns warm enough to operate, and our hands warm also. George sawed until 4 P. M. Then, Floyd and I nailed pallets. Homer went to Francis, house and they resumed digging, and soon they found the tile by the house. Also, the middle man for pallets for New Haven Wire and Cable is done, and the Company made their first direct order for pallets directly to the sawmill. The order was for 200 of the 23" square pallets.

Homer, was out sometime during the day and picked up spark plugs and other item for electrical system on one of the trucks. The parts came from Allison Corp.

January 11th., Homer's notes are short, he said, rush all day, making pallets, and delivering. It was a load to Dana. One load to New Haven, our first time, because the middle man had been picking them up and delivering them before this. The route to New Haven was, South on Co. Rd. 35, into Leo, turn left at the stop sign at the West edge of Leo, go across the river and turn right onto Schwartz Rd. Continue until arrive at S.R. 37, turn right on 37 and go to Maysville Rd., left there, to Landon Rd.,left on Landon, and into New Haven. Turn left on Dawkins Rd., aka St. Rd. 14 at this time, and the factory was on the left about a ½-3/4 mile down. Homer delivered the load to New Haven.

There are deliveries tomorrow, hence the rush. After the days activity, Homer went back to Francis Bell's, and dug some more, before long, the tile was located about 30 feet away and Francis said he would finish it, by hand. That meant it was not very deep and the digging had become easier. Homer loaded the backhoe and went home.

Friday the 12th, Homer notes, it was a nice day, moderately cold. 200 pallets, 44x48" block pallets, that were made in warm weather, and had been sitting waiting. There was no blanket order for Bohn, at that time, but they had okayed us to make them. Then they changed the product they were making and did not need them at that time. Homer says, "Hooray", they are gone, it took two loads for them as they took up a lot of space, on the truck. Dana also got a load of pallets. He finally picked up the Terra-Trac at Anderson's, also one log that was left there. The accountant for the sawmill was out to see Homer, and said, you won't have to pay the 4th quarter estimated tax, did not make enough.

Saturday, the comments start by saying, George sawed, Norm and I got away about,10 A.M. To get logs at Max Doub's. They got 2 loads, and were home about 6 P.M. It was quite a snowy day, but nice. I made pallets after we stopped sawing. It is noted that the snow is drifting quite a bit, later in the day.

Monday the 15th, "It's cold this morning, nice during the day." Bad drifts today, but we got part of a day's work done. That comment meant, it was hard to get logs to the mill and was really not a nice day. If working in the log yard, whoever was doing it, had to sweep snow off the logs to measure and cut them to length, as well as fighting the uneveness of the ground in the log yard. Icy-snowy logs do not carry well on a fork lift in snowy weather. The possibility of hitting the dirt when cutting off logs in the yard also meant dulling the chainsaw. The fork lift did not have a closed cab either. Think, Brrr. Harry Strong came about dark with a load of logs from the Carl Carpenter job. Real cold tonight.

Tuesday's only comment was, "3 degrees below this morning, cold as anywhere in the country." I really don't know if there was any body else there that day. If not, then Homer made pallets, and got ready for the next day. There is never a time in a business when there is not something to do. I really think there was a crew, but Homer was too busy to write anything, I say this because, my mother was out and picked up postage stamps with petty cash, noted on a separate note. Postage went up to 6 cents on January 1st. My own experience is that, if possible,we were at work every day unless we were called and told not to come in. I believe it was during this time that, Norm Gerig left to go home, and his big Chrysler, instead of plowing through the snow, scooted up on top of a large drift, and lost traction. I came out just a little later and there he was. I went back and Homer took the backhoe and pulled him off the drift. As a side note, I went a different way and got through and home.

Floyd Myers delivered a load of pallets to Dana, in the morning on Wednesday. Homer sorted logs and piled for later use. We sawed and made pallets. It, is getting nasty in the log yard, because the snow is now packed and smooth, the forklift does not get good traction.

Thursday, January 18, notes are; Cut one load of logs at Max Doub's, by myself. Crew sawed all day. Not so cold. It is likely that there were logs cut to length, and stacked, ready to bring in and saw. Sawing frozen wood required that the saw be sharp and filed straight across, if not the saw would lead or pull to the side, especially if you fed too fast. Part of the lead problem was, the sawdust would change from frozen to slightly warm during the cut and almost immediately would re-freeze on the side of the cut, forcing the saw to pull.

Friday, Norm Gerig delivered 1,000 blocks to Hendrickson this morning, It was damp and fairly warm this morning. Homer took the Ford truck with the winch and went to Doub's to pull trees out of the ditch that the trees were along. He said it went pretty good. He only got 1 load home though. Cletus Miller came to pick up the next batch of pre-cut lumber for his seed pallets, and I loaded them. It was a big day for Homer, climbing and walking, in and out of the truck and hooking the cable to the log and pulling it to the side of the ditch where it could be loaded. His comment was, went to bed at 7:30., rather tired tonight. He had a mild heart attack at 42, he is now44-1/2 years old, and pushing on.

Saturday, Homer went to get a load of logs from Bill Peters, East of New Haven. He stopped at Harper's to visit and tell Mr. Harper, he had purchased the sawmill at Hoagland. I nailed PE-1405 pallets for Dana while he was gone. When he got back, he sorted logs, It was a warm day, comparatively speaking. Harry finished the logs at Richard Crow's, and started on the Mitchner woods.

January 22, 1968, Homer made two trips to Dana with pallets, 200-PE-1405, and 100 PE-1402. The 1402 pallet is the heavy duty pallet, and sometimes a pallet would weigh 60 lbs. This is partly because it is being made of green, wet wood. When Homer returned, he sawed and sorted logs. Francis Bell was making pallets. No one else is mentioned. It was possible to operate the mill with 3 people and we did quite often, one sawing, one off-bearing and running the edger, and one cutting pallet material and receiving the edger material. Mostly, the 3rd. person was stacking the material to be cut up at a later time.

Tuesday, the 23rd. One load to Dana, and the new releases for pallets from Dana arrived, after looking at the future orders, Homer decided we would not be able to start the sawmill move from Hoagland this week. Homer had looked at the mill, and in his mind he had figured how much time it would take to move it. He had a very keen ability to figure things out and he had the natural skills of a Millwright.

Wed. @ 9:00, he left for Max Doub's, and got in at 12:20 with a load of Cottonwood, that scaled at 1,620'. He got another fair load at 6:00 PM. Cold all day today, was 8 degrees above this morning. He notes, that he is starting another order for Cletus Miller, for his seed corn and beans. His last note for the day, was, Harry Strong broke an axle in his truck and had to unload his load from Mitchner's. There was a load delivered to Dana today, and it was 100, 1404 tops, and 100, 1403, blue end pallets.

Short note for Thursday, Hauled more logs, sawed, and weather was fairly moderate. Friday, He comments, 2 more loads of logs out and to the mill and about 2 more loads to finish the job, at Doub's. The weather is warming up and it is going to thaw out soon.

Saturday, the 27th. Homer says, George and I cut and sorted logs all forenoon. Francis Bell nailed, then went home at noon. Harry has gotten his truck axle replaced and he brought 3 loads of logs in today, from Mitchner's. Homer's Sunday note, in evening, terribly foggy.

Monday January 29th. Homer's notes, rain and drizzle all day. If the log yard was slippery, a few days ago, today it is a nightmare. From the way the notes read, Homer was working the log yard today. He would have had enough logs on the deck to last until he returned, meaning 10-15 logs with board footage of 150-250 per log. Some could have been 20-24" in diameter. It says, George, DuWayne, Norm and Floyd cut 2x4's all day. Homer delivered pallets to Dana, all 1405's. Then he went and looked at Franklin Jordan's woods. He was back at 12:45, and helped in the mill the rest of the day. It was still raining at 7:30. The mud will return tomorrow, and it will be on the logs, just from moving them, making it necessary to sharpen all of the saws more often.

Tuesday, was a nice bright day, and the notes say it was beginning to thaw. Another day of sawing lumber, and working in the log yard. Someone was probably making pallets, too. Dana, received 2 stacks of PE-1404 tops, and they were double stacked, one top side up and the next upside down.

Wednesday, began to rain in morning, Homer worked in mill, we sawed and made pallets, According to the records, the only customer we had at this time was Dana. Everyone else was slow at this time. As I look at the record of deliveries at this time, I think it was famine compared to a few months ago. There have not been very many purchases of parts and materials. Finally, on this day there is a slip for ignition parts for the fork lift, and the cotton gloves that were mentioned for several years early on, they are still the same price, $1.39, for 3 pair.

The farm lumber for January was, Russell Myers, sawing his logs, $150.22, Neil Prentiss, 10-2x4x8', Clarence Chapman, 4-2x12x9', for weight scales deck, Victor Dunn, gate lumber, Jack Thomas, 223 feet of 1" thick material, 10' long, $26.16. The ones with no dollar amount were quite small.

I have not mentioned the new building, it was finished, mostly in December, and there was no real record, of the day to day progress. I have not yet found any record of the wood siding being installed either. I am sure that the roof was on both sections of the building, mill and boiler. The first 10 feet of the boiler stack was also done. Eight feet of the chimney was laid up with older, used concrete blocks, and the top 2 feet were laid with bricks, that Homer had purchased from the gentleman in Garrett. When the parts get here from Hoagland, the chimney will have a cast iron plate that goes on top, before the steel , 30 foot round pipe is installed.

Thursday, February 1st, Rained all day. The fuel tanks were filled today, mill, 280 gallon, truck, 250 gallon. We sawed, made pallets, loaded a load ready to deliver to Dana tomorrow. After noon, Homer says, George and I went to see Mr. Moldthan, and agreed to start moving the mill tomorrow.

Starting Feb. 1St, the minimum wage standard says, covered employees who are currently receiving, $1.40 per hour will now receive $1,60 per hour, with 1-1/2 time for hours over 40. Nonagriculture employees who are now receiving, $1.00, will now receive, $1.15, and overtime does not apply, Agricultural workers minimum pay of $1.00, currently, will now receive $1.15 per hour and overtime does not apply. There were several provisions for minors in the age group 14-15, after school hours. Jobs that are considered hazardous, you had to be 18 years old. There were several other requirements.

February 2, George delivered the load of pallets to Dana, then went to Fort Wayne, and picked up a new Flue for the boiler, a pipe 1/8 inch thick, 16', 1" long, to take to Hoagland, so Mr. Moldthan could show us how to install it correctly, before we move the boiler to Auburn. Then I went to Hoagland. One of the other men took the dump truck, Homer had taken the Semi-trailer, and I the Dodge truck.

The Boiler flue, was 4" in diameter, and cost 40 dollars, and required two men to handle it well. When I got there, the others were busy taking things apart. Homer had loaded a considerable group of tools to take things apart with. Some of the bigger items would have been large pry bars, and the almost new 24" Crescent wrench. By this time there was a set of large 3/4" drive sockets too. Several Pipe wrenches, too. The pipe wrenches were not used a lot except on 2" and under pipes, because almost all of the other pipes were joined with mechanical bolt joints, with a gasket between the parts. The items that were separated and loaded were the the "husk", track, and carriage. The carriage was 2-16' sections. We got back to the mill at 6:30 p.m. Homer commented that it was a nice warm day.

Saturday, the 3rd, Homer and I went down to the new mill site and got the rest of the mill, feed engine, cut-off saw, sawdust blower, and any thing else that was left of the mill parts. The feed engine was steam powered, and a 2-cylinder, reversing unit. It had a cylinder bore of 5", and a stroke of 6".The blower had 10" diameter piping and would blow sawdust 30' away, after going through 15' of pipe. The cut-off saw had a blade 28"or 30" in diameter. It was a solid tooth saw. Harry had delivered a load of logs he had on the truck during the day.

Monday, February 5th. Floyd, Francis, George, and Homer unloaded what had been brought home on Saturday, so the truck would be available again. We started to saw lumber just after 9:00, when DuWayne came. Homer loaded pallets for Dana, sorted logs, hooked up the trailer and loaded the backhoe. After lunch, Homer took the backhoe and stopped at Culbertson's and left off a chainsaw bar to have the tip replaced, then delivered the pallets, the went to the cemetery and dug a grave. On his way back to the mill, he stopped and got the chainsaw bar. He got back at 4:30, and a little after 5:00, he and I unloaded the semi-trailer, which had the tracks and carriage on it, since Friday. Freezing some this evening.

Tuesday, George, Floyd, Francis, and Homer, went to Hoagland. Francis and he took down the remaining shafting, the stack, end the elevator. The stack came down in a way that was not planned, I do not know which of us was driving the Ford truck, but it had a large boom that stuck out above the cab or could be moved to be in a towing position out behind the truck bed. I remember there was a big boom and someone said, "that was easy." The heavy steel-pipe boom had caught one of the support cables, there were 4, and the chimney pipe came down really quickly. The damage it received would be repaired by using pressure from the backhoe digging arm and a sledge. For about 6-7' the top o the chimney tube was flattened to about ½ width, but it was down, and could be loaded. No one was hurt. The chimney was 34" in diameter and 30' long. Homer's comments do not reflect the sudden coming down of the chimney, but I was there and saw and heard it. Floyd and I started the break down of the brickwork around the boiler. It had been built in 1942, just before rationing came in during WW 2. So the bricks were fairly easy to remove, just because of age related deterioration, and I believe some of the mortar was just not as good. We were using hammers and chisels, one of which was 20" long. Some of the sections of brick would come out in a group of 5-7 bricks at a time. The wall around the boiler had a maximum thickness of 20". The average on sides was 14" thick. The thinnest was the top, which was 2 bricks thick and they were different, they were fire bricks which were fired to be able to stand more heat and direct flames. The Dodge and the Ford trucks were the ones that came home that night. The Semi was left there. It was a nice sunny day, so Homer reported.

On the 7th, Homer, Floyd, and I went to Hoagland, to remove more brick from around the boiler. We came back with 2 load of bricks, and the slab elevator, and brought all 3 trucks home. Homer agreed to pay Mr. Moldthan $20 a ton for extra pipe, bolts and other items of steel that were left.

Homer's writing in the journal, was not totally in order, and I missed the fact that Floyd delivered a load of 4x6" of blocks to Hendrickson Tandem before he left to go to Hoagland on Wednesday. Back to the rest of the day, We got back to the mill about 5:30 p. m. The boiler has now had 2 sections of bricks removed and there is one to go. It should be noted that the front of the boiler has a steel plate covering the whole face and it is bolted on to the main framework, so it required a cutting torch to remove it. The whole boiler is supported with an iron frame work and is literally hung from that framework. This makes it possible to position it solidly before the brick work is built around the boiler. This is the last post in the journal until February 23, It has been fun to see the progress of the move, from Homer's viewpoint rather than me writing a narrative that is a guess of what happened. I do know, because of a slip that is in the daily pile, that Homer went down the next day and loaded the miscellaneous items he paid $20 a ton for. I have a paid out slip from the Farm Co-op in Hoagland that he went and had a load weighed on one of the trucks. It cost 25 cents to be weighed. I do not know the amount of weight he had to pay for.

February, 8, there were 100-PE-1405, delivered to Dana, and the mill sawed lumber for pallets. I worked in the log yard part of the afternoon, and nailed pallets later in the day. I am sure Homer is working on the new mill, bolting things in place and cleaning bricks. The bricks came from the former site in various conditions. Some were all clean of mortar, and others had a little and some were connected to several others. I remember helping clean bricks, and Homer had made a brick cleaning hand held hatchet type of tool from a 4" long piece of 3" wide truck spring and welded a handle to it, made out of 1/2" pipe. He made it for right handed use, by grinding the right side as it was held, until it was ground in to the left side. The total length of the ground out area was about 3/4" long,height ways. This made it so the left side that contacted the joint between the brick and the mortar was nearly flat to the brick side. It took some practice, but when it was done properly it worked well. The goal was to strike exactly at the joint, between brick and mortar. At some point, all of us who worked there eventually helped clean bricks. I remember thinking, a couple of times, I wish this was done and over with.

It was not mentioned in the journal, about the installation of the boiler flue, so I will speak to that now. First off, there was one tube that had a pin sized hole in it, after they sawed back at the beginning of Homer's day when he sawed with the mill to learn about it. At that time Mr. Moldthan knew about the leak and they sawed with about 60 pounds of steam pressure. The normal operating pressure was 120 psi. The Boiler is exactly 16' long on the outside. The new tube is 16'-1". To remove the old one you stick a 2' long piece of used 2" pipe in the end of the bad tube, then use a torch to cut the tube inside the 1/2" thick head end of the boiler. Next, do the same on the other end of the boiler, next is to cut out the very short piece in the end of the head plates. It is important to not cut into the 1/2" end plate of the boiler, when doing this. Now you can align the tube and pull it out of the boiler. After this make sure all of the opening in the ends of the boiler are smooth and clean. Now the new tube can be put in place, alignment is quite a task. Once it is in, it is essential to center the tube in the boiler. Now you use a flue roller, to swell the tube inside the boiler head and rear end. This tool has a tapered rod inside the center, that progressively swells the tube as it is inserted, and rotated a little bit at a time. The part that is inside the head of the boiler head has rollers on it to insure that the closure is even all the way around.
After both ends have been rolled to swell the tube inside the boiler head, then the proper way to finish is to take a ball peen hammer and slowly bent the excess end of the tube outward slowly, all the way around the circumference of the tube. Once that is done re-insert the flue roller inside the head and re-roll the tube, a little.

Homer purchased more tools on the14 and 15th. Of February, at the Gamble store in Auburn. Both purchases are on slips stating that the items were purchased with petty cash. One slip states simply, tools, and the other noted that it was for a sledge. Also there is a McHugh invoice for, 4' Doyle folding log scale rulers, and saw shanks. The saw shanks do wear out over time, and literally get loose in the saw plate. This time that was what happened. Longer term, the saw plate will eventually wear . When that happens, new shanks are available in 2 different sizes of oversize. When they are ordered, they are marked with a factory stamped number, on the shank, after the regular designation, (-2). The folding rules were priced at $2.00 each, and the shanks were $1.30 each.

Pallets were delivered, one load each day of the week, 2 loads to Dana, and 1 load to New Haven, 1 load, Hendrickson, 1load Dana, on the 12th.-16, of February. That was a good week. The next week, we got to catch our breath, there were 2 loads on Friday the 23rd, one load to Hendrickson, and one to Bohn. The load for Hendrickson, was all 4x6 blocks, 24 and 29" long, total of 972 pieces. The load to Bohn, was 300 block pallets.

The fuel truck came on the 23rd, and filled the mill tank, 190 gallon and truck tank, 270gallon. The truck tank showed the trips to Hoagland. It was usually some less than the mill amount.

On Saturday, the 24th. I have a note in journal, that Homer went to Hoagland, and loaded the boiler on the semi-truck, it does not say that he had any help doing that, and he probably did not. The boiler would have been on the same level as the truck bed and mostly it was a case of rolling it onto the truck. We are talking about an item that probably weighs 3 ton. Being careful and making sure it did not roll off the truck would have required thought. He was successful, and did not get hurt doing it. He called my mother to come and get him, so he did not plan to bring it home that day. She did not drive much outside of going to small towns North of Fort Wayne, but she had been to this location with Homer and it was all country driving.

Monday the 26th. Homer drove the Dodge truck and took Francis Bell with him to Hoagland, and they got a load of bricks from the remaining side of the boiler area and Homer drove the semi back with the boiler and Francis drove the Dodge with the brick on it. They got back at dark. The journal entry for the next day says, unloaded brick and sorted them, until 10 A. M., then delivered a load of pallets to Dana.

February was license plate time, and that got done on the 27th. Homer also went and picked up the Pine boards for the Dana strips that day.

Homer had been contacted by Woodlawn Cemetery, about a large Rock Elm that had died on their property. He had previously looked at it and determined He could cut it without damaging any stones. Wednesday, he takes his saws and equipment and cuts the tree down. It scaled at over a 1,000 board feet in the tree. It will make a lot of pallet material.

While he was doing the Elm tree, we at the mill were sawing another order of 4x6" blocks, and starting on another order of block pallets. We did not get the 4x6" blocks finished on Wednesday, and Homer's note on the next day says, we finished the blocks, and that morning, Bohn called and said, we need some of those block pallets today, so it was time to load the Hendrickson order of blocks and there was room enough for 30 of the pallets for Bohn, on the load. Homer delivered these items, and in his notes, he says, the truck is balky, it needs a tune up.

Top left, the boiler fresh in from Hoagland, on the 20' semi-trailer. Pictured are L to R, DuWayne Goings, Homer, Francis Bell, unidentified. The boiler is facing with the top toward us, as you look at it The oval area, to the right of the open hole is a removable cap. When it is removed, there is an 11" X 13" opening for entry into the boiler for inspection. Top right, the 80' mill building framework. Another view at the bottom. These are the only pictures we have of the mill building. We thought it would always be there and we could get other pictures later.

The farm lumber sales for February, were, Ralph Newcomer, Harold Johnston, Orville Collins, Royce Gibford, James Jump, all of these were small sales. There were 3 batches of lumber for Cletus Miller, each of which were larger dollar amounts, for his seed business.

The journal stops until March 9th, but I know that the work on the new mill continues, cleaning bricks, Floyd mixing mortar, with additive to prevent mortar from freezing, and Homer laying bricks , to get up to the height to put plank across to move boiler into place. Some of the other items are being put in place and secured.

There is a slip from March 4th., noting that a hydraulic hose was purchased for the forklift and installed. The same trip also included purchase of 2 dozen lumber crayons. The next day another trip to Fort Wayne, to pick up 2 sets of V-belts, one set was a matched pair of B-width 112" long, the other a matched pair, B-62" length. Roger Terry, had 840' of logs to sell to the mill. He received $42.00 for them. On the 6th, Homer delivered 200 PE-1405 pallets to Dana, and then went to Brinkman Office Supply, in Auburn and purchased 9 new sales books with an original and a carbon copy of the sale, also a desk stapler and a box of staples, for $11.25.

A load of 170, block pallets delivered to Bohn on the 6th, and a load of pallets to Dana on the 7th.

Saturday the 9th, Homer and I went to Hoagland for the pick up the last of the mill equipment, bricks, and all of the supplies Mr. Moldthan had left. Homer, received, saw teeth, crayon, files, steam gaskets, steam engine oil, pulleys, cant hooks, a tank of some kind, babbit and roof tar. For all of these items they agreed on a price of $214.00. All of these items can and will be used in the course of time.

Monday the 11th, we emptied the green Dodge truck, and the crew sawed and Homer delivered the pallets to Dana. He had loaded the backhoe and went to the cemetery, after Dana, to dig a grave. He notes, it is rather cold today. The next day, Floyd took a trip to Dana, with 300 pieces of 2x2x51", and 500 pieces of 2x2x24", this was not a load as such, it all fit on 2 pallets and was banded with steel banding. These are known as PE-1414 and 1415, respectively.

Homer's note for the 12th, says cold, snowy, sawed and made pallets. Temporarily closed up the East door on the new mill building, snow was blowing in. Wednesday, the 13th, note says, George sawed, I worked at odd jobs, and helped sort and make PE-1405 pallets for Dana. As I said, early in this story, the pallet material had to be sorted, with the slightly smaller runner in the center, and the top boards with the best boards on the edges of the top and bottom.

Homer wrote for the 14th, Harry brought 2 loads of logs this evening. It is the last of the Mitchner big woods, except for a few Ash. While he was here, I , loaded a few good Ash on his truck, at 8:00 P.M., so he could finish the load tomorrow, and take the Ash to Hicksville, to Crook & Son, Co.
Homer notes, that his mother's stoker quit working at 10:30, built a fire, without the stoker , until tomorrow after I can get repairs. In bed by midnight. Back up to fire furnace with coal at 7:00 A.M. Went to Gengnagle Co. in Auburn, and got another unit at 9:00, back home at 11:00. Had to go back at 2:00 PM, the fire had gone out. As he writes this in the evening, the stoker is working well.

A load of 200- 23" square pallets was delivered to New Haven. They wanted their pallets stenciled with their full name, New Haven Wire and Cable, on both sides, so their pallets do not go to any of the other copper wire drawing companies in the area using them, so they sent a stencil for us to use.

Winter has been hard on the trucks. as far as head lights, fuses, and light bulbs, electrical tape.the tail light fixtures. Also needed were, oil filters and a water pump for one of the trucks. Homer went to Allison's and purchased $115.00 of these items.

The load of Ash logs that was recently taken to Hicksvlle, brought in $267.33. There were 17 logs.

Homer took a day and went to Indianapolis, his goal was to have the present mill saw hammered, (tensioned) , and one of the 2 blades we had recently purchased also. I have written about this before, but a short comment. Hammering is used to set a saw to run at a certain speed and do it properly. All circular mill saws have dish or a slight cupping. when idle. At the running speed, the saw will stretch at the rim and flatten out. Hammering is also needed when a saw has been pulled crooked in the cut and gotten hot. When that happens. the saw will develop a knot or bump. Hammering will remove that condition.

At this time the man Homer is going to see. Harry Moore. is not yet retired, but is no longer going to a sawmill site, you need to go to him. He was working out of a professional shop where smaller diameter saws are sharpened on machines. and sent back to the customers. These machines are all automated. The company was, Automatic Saw Co. The shop was in the 300 block of Vermont in downtown. Harry, charged $27.50 for the larger saw. and S12.50 for our present mill blade.

While Homer was gone, on the 18th. the crew either was working at the mill or making pallets, delivering pallets, or cleaning bricks. The shipping book says. there were 2 loads of pallets delivered to Dana that day. 200 on one load. and 100 each of pallets and tops on the other load. Some of us were making pallets, because there was another load of pallets and tops delivered to Dana. on Wednesday the 20th., There was a split load going to Butler. 100-seat link pallets to Crane-Edmund, and 400-4x6x24" blocks to Hendrickson. The 20th, Clifford Hankey came to get 500 of the 2x4x18" pieces. Homer. was looking at a tract of timber somewhere near Hamilton. and stopped at Hamilton Lumber Co. and picked up a bag of mortar for the new brickwork.

On Saturday, the 23rd, Homer and George worked on the new sawmill, I went home at noon, because the snow was drifting bad. The carriage is in place. and the brickwork is above the grates in the firebox area. The brickwork will need to raise another 1 foot yet, before boiler can be set.

The telephone bill came and the call Homer made. to have G'Nell come and get him in Hoagland. when he loaded the boiler on the truck. was a (reverse the charge on somebody else phone), cost 50 cents. The brickwork on the boiler required a lot of mortar over the whole process. 20 sacks of regular mortar, cost $1.65 per bag, and the special mortar, 4 bags of Fireclay for the fire bricks, which were going to be in direct contact with extra heat of the fire, each bag cost $5.00.

There was a load of grade quality Sugar Maple, sold to Frick Lumber Co. in Brimfield, Indiana. on U.S. 6. They paid $315.00 for the load. Homer had been looking for another tractor to make into a forklift and Joe Gerig, had a Cockshutt 30 available, used for $475.00. I think it had a wide front end and probably was a 1953 model. Homer was always on the lookout for equipment he could use as it was or modify. This one he would modify. The Cockshut and the Co-op were the same tractor & from Canada. but the Co-Op was sold through the Farm Bureau Co-op stores. The Cockshut's were painted red and the CO-OP's were orange.

Monday. March 25,1968, the crew of George, Floyd, and Duwayne sawed in the mill, Homer worked on the truck. On the 26th, there were 200 pallets delivered to Dana, and the28th, there were 200 of the 1/2" thick strips delivered to Bohn.

The month's farm lumber list is: Keith Culler, a small order, Walter Reinhart. 13-1x4x12' and 60-1x5x12', from his logs, $11.82. Walter Morr, 5-2x5x16, 75-1x5x16', 20-1x4x16'. 1-8x8x8', from his logs, $24.99, Bassett Electric Motor Repair, 3-4x4x16', $4.30.

April 1st, there were 100 pallets delivered to Dana, on the 2nd, 200 tops, 100 pallets and 500 2x2 blocks. April 3rd, 200 pallets and 100 tops. A total of 700 pallets and tops and 500 blocks. Hendrickson received 100 pallets and 200 little strips, on the 4th. That was a 4 load week.

Homer's journal stopped again until late April. On the 2nd, someone went to Sutherland Lumber and got 2 things, another batch of boards to cut into strips for Dana, and some door track for the roller doors on the new mill building. On the 4th, there is a note that, the Senco staple gun was turned in for credit. and the mill received $50 for it, used. Totally Duo-Fast from now on.

Homer was still working a woods in the vicinity of John Harper's sawmill, and had delivered logs to him to saw into 1-3/4x4" stock for pallet runners, and Mr. Harper called and said the lumber had been sawed and Homer was to pick it up. The charge was $70.00, which was paid on the 10th. I do not believe Harper's had a fork lift , so I think it was loaded by hand.

The week of April 8-12, only had 1 load delivered to Dana, one to Hendrickson, and one to Bohn. There was another 20 bags of mortar picked up on the 13th. The same day, Homer was at Auburn Automotive Supply Inc. They were an automotive supply store on South Wayne St., in Auburn. He bought a clutch plate for one of the trucks. The 15th, a Monday, Homer was at Allison's, and picked up brake fluid, and 2 chisels, Tuesday, 315 pallets and tops were delivered to Dana. The next day, another 76 pallets and tops to Dana, to finish out the order from the day before. We are out of mason sand, and 3 ton are delivered on the 18th. The boiler brick work is fast approaching the point of being able to hang the boiler from the framework, and build the rest of the boiler brickwork.

Dana received 330 pallets and tops during the week of 4-22-26th. Hendrickson 900 blocks and 30 large 44x48" block pallets. Three loads for the week.

Homer has been pushing really hard for the last several weeks, and on Thursday, the 25th, he placed a couple of notes in his journal. " !!, Arthritis in knee bad, can't straighten or bend. Heat and Bengay, seem to help some. " The next morning, he said, "Better, but soon stiffened up again." On Saturday, the 27th., he wrote, "Worked alone all day, pallets-- then went and dug a grave." That grave digging did not help his situation, because, during the dig, he had to get off the backhoe and get in the grave and clean up the edges and the bottom of the grave. Even if he put the backhoe bucket part way down in the grave , he still had to bend the hurting knee quite a bit. He got it done, and delivered some Walnut lumber to Von Tharp. He did go see his osteopath, Dr. DaleTreadwell, at 5:00, and he helped him out with some massage and medicine.

The week of 4-22-26, Dana and Hendrickson, each received 2 loads of material, and the week that includes a couple of days in May, 3 trips to Dana and one to Hendrickson.

The gloves, G'nell has been buying from J.C.Penney's, have gone up 10 cents a pair, to $1.59/ 3pair.

April 29-30, there were 2 loads of pallets delivered to Dana. 265 pallets, and 350 2x2 blocks. The farm lumber for April was, Gerald Maldeny, a small amount of 1" lumber, Grant VanHorne, a small batch of Ash lumber, Kenneth Koeppe, a few gate boards, Clyde Fugate, lumber to finish framing in for the skirt on the mobile home, Von Tharp, hauling and sawing his Walnut logs into lumber, $40.00.

The McCullough 790 chainsaw got a primer to send fuel to the carb, to start it. The primer was broken and would not work anymore. There were other repairs and materials that needed to be replaced also. Also purchased was oil to mix with the gas, and all of these items came to $40.42.

The progress on the new mill is going good, and the door tracks for the log deck area have been installed. More bricks have been laid around the boiler, but there is still a long way to go on that.

Friday May 3rd, there were 200 pallets and tops delivered to Dana, 80 block pallets to Hendrickson.

When there has been time to work on the new mill, Homer and Floyd have been doing that, with Floyd mixing the mortar and Homer laying bricks. The rest of the crew was busy sawing material and making pallets,

The week of the 6th, 45- 44"x48" block pallets were delivered to Bohn, with the load being completed with 534-4x6" blocks going to Hendrickson. 200 pallets to Dana on the same day. Tuesday, Bohn received 155 block pallets, Wednesday, Dana got 268 pallets and tops, and the next load went to New Haven in the afternoon. We had 2 trucks available at this time and the other one delivered to Bohn and Crane-Edmund on the same day. 3 loads in the same day. Thursday, another load went to Hendrickson and it had both pallets and 4x6 blocks. The total trips was 7 for the week.

Homer came in at the end of the day on Monday, the 13th., and stated that the skidding tongs he had been using at a timber cut had been stolen, and the gauges on the tractor had the glass broken out of them. It did not appear that anything else had been vandalized, and the tractor still ran and worked. This was the first time something like this had happened to the equipment when left at the job site.

On the 14th., Homer pre-paid on the timber at William Ehle's. The amount was $450.00, for a total of 15,000' of timber.

Pallet deliveries for the week of May13-17th. were, Dana,432 pallets and 350 blocks, Hendrickson, 534 4x6" blocks, Bohn, 90 block pallets. Three trips to Dana, one trip each to the 2 Butler, companies. The pallet work is going well and the new mill work is progressing, with both of the steam engines being bolted in place and some of the overhead shafting for the edger being mounted.

On May 22nd, I went to Fort Wayne and picked up a new set of log tongs at National Mill Supply Co. Then I went to Sutherland Lumber to pick up the Pine boards for the strips we make for Dana. The tongs were $22.11, and the lumber was, $112.80. When I got back, I either sawed or worked in the log yard measuring and cutting, and sorting logs.

The week's pallets were, Dana, 584 and 750 blocks, Hendrickson, 1,000 4x6" blocks, Bohn, 150 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 100 pallets. There was a sale of veneer White Oak sold to Central Veneer Inc, Fred Knowles, buyer for them. There were 10 logs, totaling 2,367', and the mill received $295.00 for them. The average feet per log was, 230', and average length was 10 feet.

The last week of May, the pallet deliveries were, Dana, 300 pallets, Hendrickson, 500 4x6" blocks, a very light week. While there is always work to do making pallets or working on the new mill, because it was slower, I was sent to The Andersons, to pick up some tires and motor oil. This was the first time we had purchased oil in 55 gallon barrels, and we got 2 barrels that day. They were $42.91 per barrel. They had a forklift to load them for me. Whew!! I also purchased 2 truck tires and tubes, yes there were still tubes in tires at that time. They were 7:00x17" tires, and cost $82.62.

The farm lumber for May was, Neil Prentice, 8-2x8x14', and enough 1" to cover 11x14' of area, $34., Royce Gibford, a small lot of lumber, Forest Trenary, a small amount of lumber, Dale Knapp, 45-2x6x14' for rafters for a new building, $70.29.

The new mill is progressing, with the brickwork around the boiler nearly completed. Other work now completed, was the erection of the chimney pipe. It needed to be stood upright on a 10' tall concrete block and brick base. The chimney base had a cast iron plate on top, with a 2" high rim for the chimney pipe to lock onto. The chimney tube had been straightened from it's fall at Hoagland, and had been painted with a high heat gray paint. The 4 cables that would support it during erection and after it was in place were attached and it was ready. It was 34" in diameter and 30' long. The Ford dump truck with the heavy boom on it, had been outfitted with a 25' light pole. The pole was chained in place and secured with chain binders. A pulley had been secured to the top of the pole. Now the winch cable could be attached to the choker cable. The choker cable was about 3-4 feet above the center of the pipe. Now all 4 of the support cables had to be placed properly, and after the chimney was at the correct height, they would be used to help bring it into place. There was a tractor at each of the two locations that would help erect the pipe. And the other two would be used to stabilize it when it got close to up. They also had a vehicle attached and someone in the vehicle. Even if the chimney faltered and fell it should not injure anyone. The cables were each about 60 feet long. I still remember that day, everyone's nerves were tense. When the chimney finally got in place it wobbled about 8", each side of center, at the top and the 4 support cables were just the right tension, to keep it from falling. It was a great day.

There is a shortage of paperwork for June, and early July, except for pallet deliveries, and a few other items. One of the other items was the payment for the well for the steam mill. Homer had Ed DeMarco drill the well, and a 2" steel casing well was installed for the mill. The well was 63 feet deep, and cost $3.00 a foot for a total of $189.00.

The June pallet and top production was, Dana, 1,734 and blocking, 1,850, Hendrickson, 2,114 blocks, and 100 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets, Bohn, 200 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets. I do not have any record for farm lumber for June.

The boiler is completely bricked in and the piping for the 2 steam engines is completed. The large engine is a Chandler and Taylor, built in Indianapolis, Indiana. The engine is a simple, single cylinder engine, with a bore of 13" and a stroke of 16". It is considered to be a 100 horse power engine. The boiler will have a top limit of 120 P SI., at pop-off pressure, and was considered to be rated at 125 HP. Will give more details a little later. The feed engine is a reversible, 2 cylinder engine, with a 5" bore and 6" stroke. I do not know the make of the feed engine, but do know it had an earlier life as a lifting engine for a dam on a river somewhere.

The pallet production never stopped and the crew, when available, was working on the new mill.

Looking through the check stubs, I find that there were two new full time employees added for the rest of the summer. Leslie Strong, Harry's oldest son, and Wendell Hose, Ralph Hose's son. They were going to learn pallet making and help with the sawmill off bear work, running the edger and cutting pallet material and cutting slab wood. They probably were also helping with the last of the work in preparing the steam mill ready to operate. Their first week of work was, June 10th. They were both in college and needed summer jobs.

The normal trips for supplies and pallet deliveries continued and purchases of timber, too. Two of the new people to sell timber were Roscoe Howard and Albert Moore. The Moore job was at the corner of Co. Rd. 34 and 49, Southeast corner, and was quite a large job.

The new mill building now has eaves trough, the outside finishing touches are coming along. Another temp employee has come aboard, Jeff Souder is helping with clean up of the existing mill and the new one, about every 2-3 weeks.

The pallets for July, through the 19th., Dana, 1,200 pallets and tops, and 1,350 blocks, Hendrickson, 1,122-4x6" blocks, New Haven, 200 pallets, Bohn, 210 block pallets, Crane-Edmund 200 pallets.

I thought we had all of the items from Mr. Moldthan, but he found some more of something, because there is a check written for $15.00 for supplies to him. Homer just purchased timber from Louis Steury,over 7,000 feet, and paid $239.00 for it. He also purchased cull Ash from Crook-Miller Co. for $143.00. As I look at the back of the check for the Ash logs, I made an observation, They are a Division of J. Wiss & Sons, Co. Thinking back, I remember being there at the business and the man showing us around mentioned that they had recently made some changes and would be shutting down their steam powered electric generating operation in the near future.

The rest of July's pallet production was a total of 640 pallets and, 500 blocks for all companies. The farm lumber, Ted Congleton, spent $41.60, on a mixed lot of 2x4 lumber. Roger Means, started working part time the next to last week of July, his father has been working part time for quite a while. Leslie Strong and Wendell Hose worked the last for the summer, the next to last week of July. They were good workers, and will be missed.

A copy of the notice to Dana, dated August 1st., says, "Due to increased costs, we find it necessary to increase prices effective Sept 1st 1968". Most of the increases were only a few cents, but it was sufficient to keep the operation profitable.

There is a check written to Culbertson Welding and Repair, for a rebuild of a chainsaw, I believe it was the almost new one, less than a month old, that the engine locked up. I think it got the wrong fuel, with no oil in it and that was the cause of the problem. It cost $99.10 to repair it. I went to Tractor Supply Co., and picked up a battery for one of the tractors, either skidder or forklift. Cost was $21.37.

The return acknowledgement of the price increase requests came and was okayed by Dana management. The largest increase was 10 cents and most of the rest were 1-5 cents each.

There may have been an earlier note that the edger for the new mill was in place, that was an error. I found a check stating that Homer purchased an edger from Snider Brothers, for $565.00. If I remember correctly, it had 3 saws , which was nice, the old one had 2 saws.

There are a lot of things I could not address as I wrote. One of them is a firm time line of when items and parts of the steam mill were actually competed. I am going to fill in some of the details now, as I do know that the first boards were sawed on the 1st. Day of August 1968. The boiler is a good place to start. This will be as complete a list as possible of the actual size and proportions of the boiler and other items.

The building of this framework, brick work, and finally the finished project was, a monument to my father's intense desire to build a final sawmill. His skill, devotion and dedication to this massive project was never swerving. It was being done at a time when this type of power, to run any kind of operation was winding down, and almost gone.

The boiler, as I said previously, is a H R T, or horizontal return tube type of unit, the heat travels under the boiler, then back inside the tubes, and from there to the pipe that connects with the chimney. The heat is used twice to heat the water to steam. The other type is a water tube boiler, in which the heat goes around only the tubes filled with water, with the steam chamber being connected to and above the tubes, is actually more efficient, and quicker to produce steam, from a start.

Our project is quite large, as the brickwork is 8-1/2' wide and 10-1/2' high at the front, and 20 inches thick at the thickest area's. The rear is 8' high. This height difference is because there needs to be room for the ash box below the fire area. There were nearly 20,000 bricks used.

There is a metal framework to support the boiler, and it is made of channel iron. The boiler has 4 mounting brackets, mounted about 2' in from each end in a pair on each side of the boiler. The boiler is supported by two large U-bolts that are suspended from the channel iron. Those U-bolts are around 24" long and are 1" in diameter. They along with the brickwork, re-rods, and long bolt rods that pass through the brickwork are all working together to make the final support of the unit. There is a set of rod-bolts that pass through the brickwork just outside the ends of the boiler and through another channel iron on the outside of the boiler with a large block of wood between the iron and the nut on the rod. There are 3" diameter cast iron washers next to the wood before the nut is installed, and those washers were 5/8 thick in the center, and tapered to ¼" at the outside. This boiler and others like it are nearly indestructible, if there is a good base and weather, water or frost does not get in the brickwork.

There was a steel plate at the front in 2 pieces, each about 5'by 8', and joined in the middle horizontally. They were 1/4" thick and had openings for the tube area, the upper large doors, the fire doors and the ash pit area. These doors were mounted with 2 hinges each, and were made of cast iron. The ash doors had an overlap at the center and had movable cover parts to allow for more air to the fire. The fire doors also had the ability to allow air to pass through, but had a cast iron baffle to keep the intense heat from warping the outer section. Think for a minute about the draft that is created with a 40' chimney. The boiler itself is protected from the heat only because there is water inside at all points where the heat occurs.

The inside of the brickwork, directly in contact with the fire and intense heat is laid up with a single layer of "fire brick", which can stand the heat better. Long term use over years, would require that the fire brick be replaced. There was a single layer of fire brick on the top of the boiler after the side walls had reached the upper curve of the boiler. This area was about 4' x 16' in size. When there was a need to be on top while running the equipment, it was very hot on top of the boiler. There was a 4" valve there and one at the engine, and when mill was not in use, both valves were closed.

I have not yet described the firebox, ash pit or grates and several other things. I'll start with the firebox, it is 5-1/2' long, 62" wide, and the actual grates cover 5'wide x 34" long, and each grate is 6" wide, for a total of 10 pieces. The grates were the type that could be used either with wood or coal, meaning that the openings were quite small, around 1/2"x1-1/2" long. The doors are 24" high and a total of 38" wide for the two doors. Inside the fire doors, is a sloping cast plate that goes inside, and it is 28" long, to the grates. Once you get a fire started in that size area, it is possible to fill it completely full, but if you do, then you better get ready to use the steam you are going to produce. It usually required about an hour to be ready to operate, if you started with a completely cold boiler. When you put the boiler to "bed" at night, the next day usually you still had between 20 and 50 PSI of steam, and could be ready in about 35 minutes. In the winter, we usually made enough fire to keep the steam at about 40-50 PSI overnight. Weekends, we would keep some fire, so things would not freeze. The engine and the piping to the engine could be emptied to the point they would not freeze.

The ash pit was 6' wide, and 7' deep, length ways, and 22" high, on a concrete floor. When we sawed most of a day, there was need to empty the ash pit a couple of times. Because the openings in the grates were so small, it was necessary to scrape the ashes through at regular intervals. We had a metal handled hoe about 6" high and 10" wide to do this. You scraped, rather than pick it up, because it was heavy. The ashes were hauled out with a steel bodied wheel barrow. The ashes were piled up for a while about 40 feet away and there was a path to that area. It became necessary a short time later to load and haul them further away. The tractor and a dump truck did that job very well.

The boiler head, or end plates were 1/2" thick and were formed with a curve and had a 6" overlap onto the main round tube that is the main length of the boiler. This joint was the same on both ends of the boiler, and had a rivet every 2-1/4", around the circumference. The center of the boiler was also joined in the same way, except that the overlap was longer, at 16", and the rivets were staggered in a pattern. Each head had 30-32 riveted bolts that went from the head to staggered points on the side of the main sides of the top of the boiler internally, and above the tubes. These rivets were all hot set, so when they cooled they would shrink and tighten the joint they closed. There were 2 full length bolts that went the full length of the boiler, a few inches below the tubes and they were 1-3/4" in diameter.

There were 2 access openings, into the inside of the boiler, and they were an oval shape. The size of the opening was 11x 13" and an inspector could enter to check inside. They were made by an outside company,Lukens, and were 5/8" material, press formed. There will be a picture of one of them. The shutoff valve on top of the boiler was a very heavy duty unit. It had a thread that was 3/4-1" in diameter that worked internally to close the valve tight. The valve was a 4" diameter and weighed probably 60-70 pounds. All of the parts of the valve had special packing to handle the heat and steam. The valves in the line to the boiler were all joined with bolts on a flat flange, with a thread on the other end. These joints all had a fiber or special rubber gasket in the joint.

The pop-off valve was sized to the boiler, both for the pressure but the physical size. Ours was about 3 inches in diameter and about 5 inches tall. Inside was a special spring that would only release when the set pressure was reached or it could be opened by a pull cable that was attached to it. It was not recommended to pull it except in an emergency.

The boiler had a whistle, and it was described as a chime whistle. The chime was made by cutting 3 different arches in the 5" diameter, an different heights, from 1-3 inches high. It was about 14 inches high and made a beautiful sound. Once you have heard one, you never forget the sound, beautiful.

All of the doors on the boiler had a curved edge surface that made the doors have a 3" flare outward, beyond the face plate. This gave it more character than just flat doors would have been. The hinge pins were 5/8" diameter and had a large head, that was about 1-1/2" in diameter just above the door and then became smaller above that, like 2 dips of ice cream, with the top one being ½ the size of the first. The large doors for access to the flues were frames with a sheet of 1/16" metal riveted on to close the area. Those thin sheets, had a cast iron plaque mounted in the center, with the words, Bass Foundry and Machine Co., in raised letters on them. The company was in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The brickwork, varied in width, and at the largest part of the curve of the boiler, the brickwork was about 12" thick.

The entrance opening to the rear of the boiler brickwork was about 19" wide and 23" high, with the highest point being an arch, to keep the brickwork from falling in. It was covered with a cast iron door frame and door. The drain pipe to empty the boiler was a 2", double strength pipe that extended about 20" beyond the end of the brickwork. The double strength pipe was actually less than 2" inside, because the extra strength of the steel was on the inside, and the outside of the pipe was still the same size on the outside, as single strength pipe. The drain had a high quality valve on the end, that could easily be opened. There were 2 pipes that extended from the front of the steel head of the boiler, and they supplied the water for the water column. This device, made it possible to get accurate checks on the water level in the boiler.

The water column, was located at the left front corner of the boiler and was made of cast iron and was about 4" in diameter and 20-24" tall. There was a valve near the top and also the bottom. These were piped a little further out and had a receptacle to accept a glass tube about 1/2" diameter on the inside. This was a tempered glass and because it was round, it would be able to stand the pressure within the boiler. There were also three, 1/2 turn spigot check valves that could be opened to check the water on the column. They were spaced top, middle, and bottom. The glass tube valves could be shut off and the other 3 valves could be used to check the water level, in the event that the glass began to leak at the seals, top and bottom. This last option was only to be used if the glass did leak and then would require that the process of pulling the fire and shutting down, was in order. As long as the water level was in the glass, the water was above the tubes and everything was okay. While we were operating, we added water when we still had 6 inches of water above the tubes. There needed to be a ladder available to work on the water column, as it was about 10 feet off the floor.

Boiler explosions happen for several reasons, and here are a few, water level below the tubes, a sudden major leak or breakthrough of a tube, inattention to procedures, and not having the boiler checked yearly. This testing is required by the state and is a physical check of all parts and equipment of the boiler and also a cold water pressure test at twice the pressure that the boiler will operate at. The pressure test will reveal any leaks and if there is something that is not physically visible, it will be found. We were operating at 120 PSI, and at this point had not had a test.

The connection to the chimney, from the boiler was a rectangular pipe about 1/8" thick and 14x20" in diameter and it did not have any brickwork around it. The steps to the top of the boiler, were wood and 26" wide and there were 13 steps. They were along the left side of the boiler as you stood facing the front of the boiler.

As you can see, there are a lot of things to learn and think about concerning a steam boiler. There is one more thing involved in the boiler operation, and that is the injector, to add water to the boiler.

The injector is a very technically complex device, and I will not attempt to describe the physics of it. It can only be used after there is steam pressure in the boiler.

The injector is made of brass or bronze, and there are pipes carrying cold water, steam, and an overflow line. There are two valves, one carrying cold water and the other the steam. You start the process by opening the cold valve a certain amount, and then the steam valve. with practice, you can use the stream of steam to force water into boiler, which is under pressure. If the mix is off, with too much cold water, the injector will open a check valve and release the water to the drain. Then you get to start over with cold water. If the injector is hot it will not work. There will be a picture and a diagram of the injector in the story.

The pressure gauge, is a very delicate instrument, and if dropped or struck will probably be inaccurate. The simple description of a pressure gauge is, a single semi-circular hollow, brass tube spring. The other feature that makes it work is the installation of a syphon in the form of a loop pipe, approximately 1/4" inside diameter, making a full revolution, between the water column and the gauge. This equalizes the temperature between the steam and the water in the water column. All gauges are checked when there is a boiler inspection.

The steam engine we were using was made in Indianapolis, Indiana, by The Chandler&Taylor Company. It was what is called a simple engine, with a 13" bore and a 16" stroke. It used a metal slide valve to move back and forth to let steam enter and exit. It had 2 cast iron flywheels, one was 18"wide and 7' in diameter. The other wheel was 12" wide and 5' in diameter. This configuration allowed for the operation of 2 separate shafts by way of flat belts. It had a flyball governor, which had 3 hinged springs, with weighted balls mounted in the center of the hinge. The governor was driven by a right angle drive, powered by a 1-1/2" belt driven by a small drive on the engine. Because this was a simple engine, when you wanted to start it you had to move the cylinder to a position where the steam would push the piston. There were many other items that needed to be in operation when the engine was to be run. There were drip oilers that had to be physically opened so the would drip oil and lubricate the engine. They all had to be filled before the start up. There was also a powered feed oiler, that oiled the internal parts of the engine. This required a special oil that was made for steam engines. The bearings for the engine were all babbit metal, which is a mix of lead and tin, to a certain percentage. The start process required that you open a valve on the bottom or the cylinder chest to allow the water to escape. This was because you were allowing steam to enter a cold piece of metal and there was condensation, until the metal warmed up. Then the valve could be closed. It was necessary to be wearing heavy leather gloves while in the start up mode, or you could be scalded or burned. The engine operated at 175 revolutions per minute. The large flywheel pulley was carrying a 16" belt to the mill shaft, which had a 22" pulley. This developed approximately 550 RPM at the saw blade.

The feed engine, was a 5" bore and 6" stroke, reversible 2 cylinder unit. I do not know the name of the company that made it, but I think it was International. I do know that my father was told it had been used to lift a dam gate on a river somewhere in it's earlier life. It used a reduction gear drive to a shaft that ran the carriage forward and back. That drive used belts and a wire rope cable to pull the carriage.

The carriage was 32" long when we purchased the mill. We separated it and used only 16 feet in our operation. The carriage opened back to accept a log to 42". The circular saw blade was 58" in diameter and had insert teeth, in the B & F style. The way everything was configured, we could square a log to 26". When we first began we did not have a top-saw to saw larger diameters.

Another item that was not mentioned earlier was the belt to drive the mill and how it is joined. The belt is 16" wide and approximately 3/8" thick, making it quite heavy and hard to pull together. Joining is done with a clamp device, and metal "lacing". First, let's talk about the clamp and how it works. There are 2, one inch diameter steel rods, that are 5' long, with threads on them, with a washer and threaded nut on each end. There are also 4 pieces of 2x4 lumber, 24" long. Two of these 2x4's are clamped together and a 1-1/8" hole is bored in them on the 2" edge, about 3" in from each end, centered on the joint of the two pieces. Then 1/2" holes are bored through the 4" wide face of the 2x4's, on center, about 2" in from each end, to accept a 1/2" bolt that will be used to clamp the boards on the belt. The boards were to be clamped on at 90 degrees to the belt. Now the rods can be inserted in the first holes that were bored and the washers and the nuts installed. The nuts are quite large, and square, 2" across. The tool of choice to turn the nuts on the threads is a large adjustable "Crescent" wrench, or large open wrench. We had the adjustable wrench. The threaded sections of the bolts were 21" on each end and that is plenty. We used C-clamps to clamp the belt to the pulley at each end to begin the process, pulling the belt as tight as possible, by hand, before using the large clamp. The goal was to bring the belt together, to a reasonable tension and to have a little overlap of the two ends. It was desired to have the ends be parallel with each other.

The ends of the belt had the actual joining, "lacing", installed before the above process was done. In the days before the usage of metal parts to join flat belts, they were actually joined by lacing a piece of leather through holes chiseled in the belt. This was done much like a shoe is laced. The leather was flat and about 1/8"+ thick and 1/2" wide. I have some examples of this that will be included in this story. Back to this process, the material is now metal and is called "Alligator", by brand name. The material is pressed steel that has been formed to look like an alligator mouth, with teeth about 1-1/2" long and 5/8" apart, and 1/16" thick. It comes in 12" or longer strips, depending on what you order, we always got the 12" size. To install it, you would place it over the belt, with a rod that was included, placed between the belt end and the lacer material. This would allow for the special joiner rods to be placed in the finished joint when both ends of the belt had their section in place. One end at a time, the section of lacer would be hammered down, with the teeth being driven into the belt. The lacer for this belt is heavy duty and hammering it was pretty simple and not much problem. Striking straight was still necessary. Once the lacer was installed on both pieces, you could install the joiner rods. These were made in such a way that it required 2 pieces that were slightly oval shaped and had small pressed notches to match the lacer on one side and were rounded on the other to accommodate the flexing around the pulleys. After the joint has been made, the clamp can be released and the belt is ready to use.

After the belt is joined, the weighted idler pulley can be let down on the belt. This pulley was about 4' from the saw shaft and provided a finish tightening of the belt and served as an alignment device. It also provided for more of the belt surface area to be on the driven pulley.

One of the other items that needed to be done on a regular basis after firing the boiler for a day, was cleaning the 4" tubes or flues of the boiler. This was accomplished using a 1/2" rod with a round 4" diameter wire brush on it to clean the inside of the tubes. There would be a layer of soot in the tubes and this would slow down the movement of the heated air through the tubes. The rod was about 20 feet long. Remember, there are 54 tubes, and this is somewhat of a tiring chore to do.

The whole process was quite labor intensive, but I remember it fondly, as I look back and think about the process. I also have to think about the fact that I was a young man of 23 at the time.

131-A

Sample of original belt lacing, using leather, and the version using metal.
The metal style was all Abel's Sawmill ever used.

Other things that were done that have no direct time frame were, electric to the building, which required a overhead line being run from a 100 amp main box on a pole about 60 feet from the house. This line would be about 200 feet long and required a pole being installed about ½ way between the house and the new mill. This would supply power for the lights, cut-off saw and the pump for water for the boiler. Homer had access to poles and he installed that one. The wire and the other electric items were purchased in Fort Wayne and he installed them.

All of the scrap wood that would be produced would be used to fire the boiler, and would be stockpiled for later use. There were 3 timbers sawed on the original mill and they were placed in the position to be used for a log deck to roll logs up the the new mill to saw. The logs would be rolled up by hand with a cant hook, because there was no powered live deck with this mill.

There was a sawdust blower with this mill, and it was powered by the main shaft of the mill when it was running. It consisted of a round housing with a shaft with 4 blades in it. The intake was a 10" pipe, with a flared opening that was placed in position to pick up the sawdust as it fell below the main mill saw blade. I remember it being powerful enough to throw the sawdust through a 10" pipe for 20' and then another 25 feet beyond.

I do not remember specifically what the cut-off saw looked like in that mill, but it probably had a 30" diameter blade and was likely a factory made one with over swing. That would mean, it was hinged and driven from the top, or was ceiling mounted, with a wooden hand built table to support the wood being cut.

The well pit was below ground level and could be insulated for cold weather. When it needed to be serviced, access was by removing a wood floor panel. Before any of the building was built, there was a drain tile installed and it joined the well pit area and also the boiler drain and the overflow if, when using the injector, there was overflow water. There was also a drain that emptied into the tile for the water from the engine startup, to take care of condensation water. The whole mill had been planned to let surface water and tile drains empty away from the area. It was built into the side of a hill, and the drop in grade from the East side of the mill to the West was about 3-4 feet. The area where all the water drained was another 4' lower yet. The main area on the East side of the mill was pretty level for an area of close to 1 acre.

I noted earlier that we were going to use only ½ of the carriage. The building was long enough that the other ½ of the carriage was stored at the North, or log deck end of the building. There was a concrete floor in the area in front of the boiler and for 20 feet out away from it. This was wood storage.

The long term thinking was that this would be the final mill, as all of the building and mill support work was concrete and that was much better than the first mill, which was laid on timbers and the buildings were post buildings with no concrete work support.

We were in the pallet business and the building that housed the first mill had been added onto. All of the pallet material that was sawed in this new building would have to be transported to the front and that was easily 130' away over the log yard. This was okay in warm, dry weather, but would be quite a bit harder in frozen weather. The solution was to purchase number 1 limestone, which is about the size of a fist or just a little bigger and make a solid driveway. This was done and it served quite well. It also required a new drive, North of the house and back to the mill of the same type of stone.

132-A

A top swing cut off saw, which was what was used in the 1969 steam sawmill.

## CORLEY SWING CUT-OFF SAW

The Corley Swing Cut-Off has a one-piece, cross-braced frame, made of high quality grey iron casting swinging on Oilite bearings from a shaft of cold rolled steel. The saw mandrel, also of high-grade steel, is equipped with Timken Roller Bearings which increase the ease of operation and lengthen the life of the machine.

A saw guard covering the entire top half of the saw comes as standard equipment, as do hangers, pulleys and inside belt. An upright Wood Frame Support can be furnished at slight additional cost.

### PRICES

| | |
|---|---|
| Corley Swing Saw, consisting of Iron Frame, Hangers, Pulleys, Inside Belt, Saw Mandrel with TIMKEN Roller Bearings (Wt. 200 lbs.).. | ~~$125.00~~ 175.00 |
| Wood Frame Support, extra | ~~15.00~~ 20.00 |
| 16" Saw | 12.81 |
| 18" Saw | 15.24 |
| 20" Saw | 18.30 |
| 24" Saw | 24.99 |
| 26" Saw | 29.25 |
| 28" Saw | 34.16 |
| 30" Saw | 39.03 |

I believe I have covered the rest of the things that make up the new mill project that were not covered earlier. We are ready to move forward, and it has been a lot of work and thought to get to this point. The day has arrived, practice building fire and making steam, test running and learning to operate the injector are now behind. Homer took the forklift and delivered a log about 20" in diameter and 10-12' long onto the log deck area. There is a 100 PSI of steam and a good fire burning. Let the sawing begin. The carriage operates the same as the other one except, it is much larger. The other thing is, this is the culmination of a dream Homer has had since 1963, when he first saw the Harper mill in operation East of New Haven, Indiana, on old U.S. 24. Every thing worked well and with a few very minor adjustments, and more practice, It would soon be the main mill for all of the production.

As I said before, this was a real mill and although the other little mill had served well it was time to retire it. This mill was a real production mill and in full operation with 4-5 workers, it could produce a huge amount of lumber in a very short time. The Belsaw mill had produced 2,000-2,500 board feet a day, and this one could produce 3-4 times that easily, if needed. Today, 8-1-1968, it began.

On July 21, 1968, there was a human interest article in the Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, section E, about a man whose hobby was operating a small upright boiler and a 2-cylinder steam engine to power a saw and cut up wood to fire his boiler, and other wood projects. He was Carl E. Zook, and someone gave Homer a copy of the article. Homer looked him up and talked to him, and they came to agreement and Homer purchased the 3 pieces of equipment from Mr. Zook. The engine was manufactured by International Harvester Co. It was 15 HP, and had been used previously by a Noble Co. tile mill. The boiler was an upright type with no flues, about 32" in diameter and 6 feet high, and the saw was a pedestal type with a cast iron base.

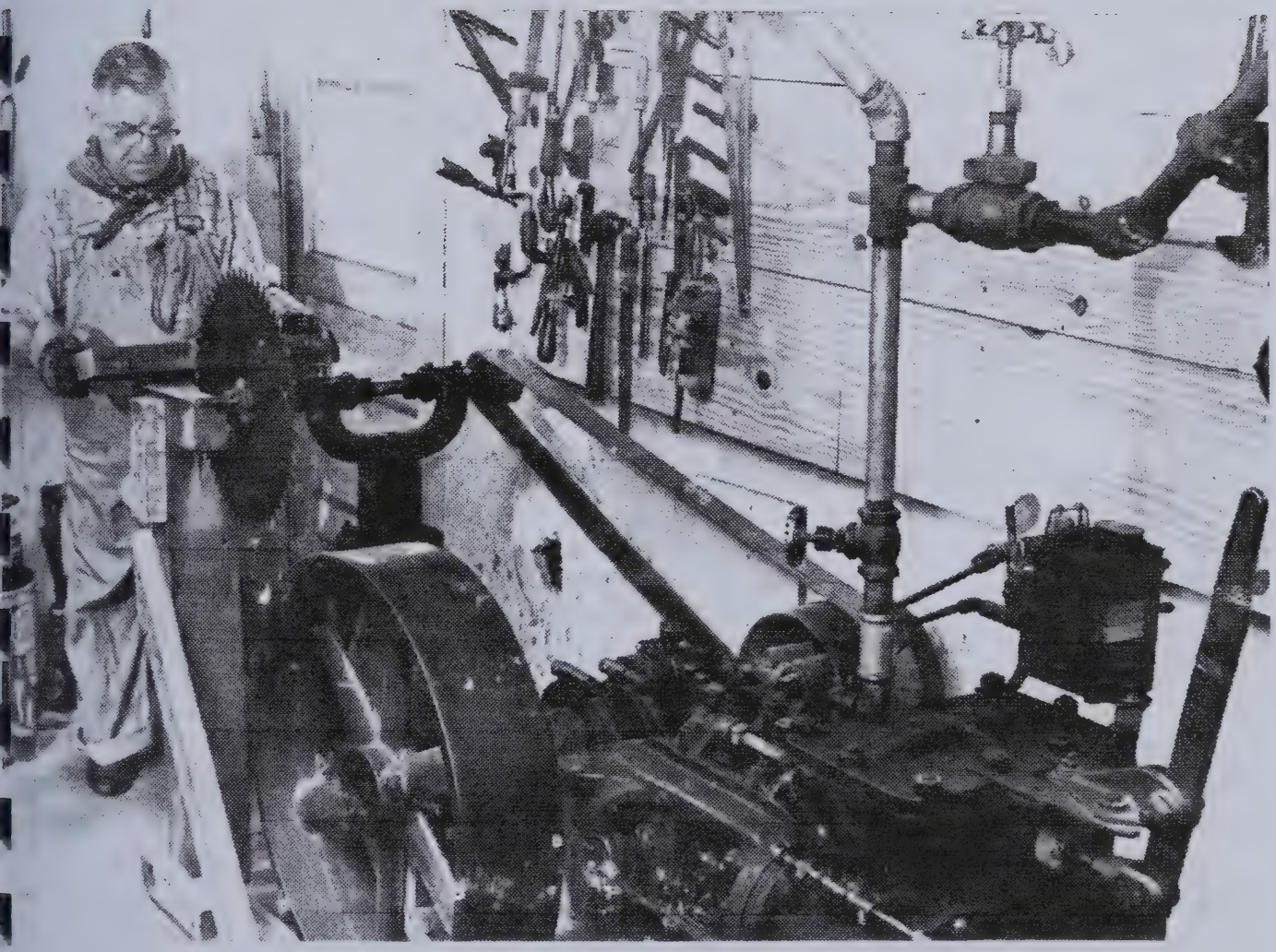
We will transition back to the daily operation of the business. There is an agreement to purchase timber from Lester Waterson, at $30 per thousand bd. ft. except good Ash and Hard Maple, were to be $50 per 1,000 bd. ft. No Walnut, and harvest the South woods first. Remove soon, 8-30-1968. There was an update for seat link pallets for Crane-Edmund, 100 for immediate delivery, and 100 each 1st. work day of the next 3 months.

August pallet production, Dana, 1,550 pallets, 1,200 blocks, Hendrickson, 2,000, 4x6 blocks, New Haven, 200 pallets, Bohn, 290 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 275 pallets. I do not show farm lumber.

Day to day sawing is still being done on the first mill as there are several minor things to do at the steam mill yet. Homer still is cutting timber and hauling too. Ralph and Harry are also doing the same. We won't be working full time in the steam mill until there is an edger in place and a second fork lift is ready to go.

There is a slip from September 9th.that says, there were 6 extra, "to be on hand", flues purchased at Power Plant Service, Inc., and a new flue brush was purchased. The flue brush screwed onto the long rod that was used and the flues cost $2.00 per foot. The same trip, Homer picked up another batch of pine boards to make the strips for Dana.

Clifford Hankey, picked up another order of 2x4x18", 1,000 pieces with a charge of $90.00 for them.



Homer purchased this steam powered engine and saw.

The farm lumber for September, was very busy, with Leonard Fisher picking up 2-4x6 pieces, Sam Hood, 20-2x4x10', 40-2x4x7', 140 lineal feet of 1x4, 32-1x7x12', for $58.40. H. B. Maxey, 2-6x6x14', 2-6x9x14', and enough 2-1/2x mixed width14'long, to cover 8', $54.98, this would have been to repair a drive over scale. Lawrence Wagoner, one small piece of 2x8x10. Byers, 20-2x8x10', 6-2x6x12', 4-2x6x8', $40.70. Howard Hine, 2-3x12x16', $10.56. That looks like loading plank. Milt Myers, sawing his logs, $25.00. Ray Heffley, 26-1x6x18', $25.74.

The September pallet deliveries were, Dana, 1,400 pallets, and 1,850 blocking pieces, Hendrickson, 779- 4x6 blocks, New Haven, 200 pallets, Bohn, no deliveries, Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets.

Homer purchased an edger for the steam mill and the check is dated as August 23, 1968. I know that it did not get installed right away. The reason for the late installation was we really did not start using the steam mill full time until about October 5th. Some of the late start was because there was another boiler tube that needed to be replaced and this was after the boiler had cooled and the water had been drained. There had been more practice sawing done between August 1 and early October too. Some of that practice required myself being in the new mill building, and learning all of the procedures involved with injector use. The firing, plus being on the carriage to learn to operate the mill itself with 2 people at the sawyer and carriage, and 3 people at the other end, off bearing cutting and firing. The carriage could be operated with a man riding, and one running the controls of forward and back motion.

Floyd Myers was now being used more of the time to make deliveries of pallets and to pick up supplies. October 8th, he went to New Haven with pallets and then to Sutherland Lumber to pick up the lumber to be made into strips for Dana. The original mill received 140 gallon of fuel and the truck tank, 280 gallon. One of the other things that had a late start in the steam mill was the installation of rollers, to facilitate the moving of lumber to the edger area and the cut off saw.

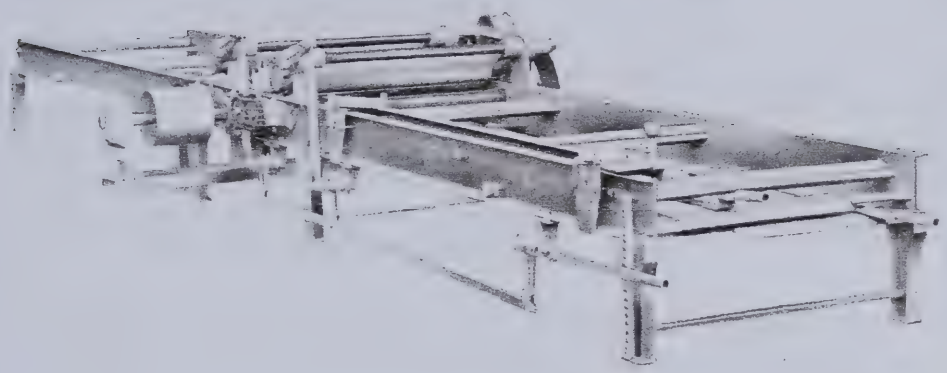
The edger finally did get it's day, in mid October. It was driven by an overhead shaft that was powered by the smaller pulley/flywheel on the steam engine. I do not remember what size the driven pulley on the line shaft was, but the final drive pulley to the edger was a wood pulley, 6" wide and 24" in diameter. Wood pulleys were the older variety of pulleys, and this one had a long life in some other business, before it came to the sawmill. Wood pulleys were formed by using wood that had been preformed to the shape and curvature needed. Then they were glued and nailed. With internal bracing and a center bore with wood sleeves to fit the shaft size needed. The final fit was made by tightening bolts that would compress the center on the shaft. This pulley had a short life in the steam mill, because about the 3rd. day it ran, everyone in the building heard a thump, then a bang and the pulley literally broke apart. No one was hit by any of the pieces and we stopped and replaced it with a different pulley before the next day.

There is a check stub indicating that C. V. Plummer was paid for casual labor. He probably came over to observe the steam mill operation, and Homer said, you can come in and be part of it for the period of time. I really do not know how long he was there, but it was probably more than one day.

October 17-1968, the premium for boiler insurance was paid, $70.98, for $50,000 per occurrence. It is getting cooler and anti-freeze was purchased for the pieces of equipment that needed it.

Jerry Norton started working, first as casual labor, and a week later, he was hired to be part time. His first job was to seal a roof with asphalt aluminum paint, Homer liked his work and he was hired.

# CORLEY No. 6 EDGER



43" - 47" - 51" - 55"

All-Metal Construction.
Three Roller Mandrel Bearings
Four Feed Rolls
Three or More Saws.
145 Feet Per Minute Feed.
Handy Pressure Roll Lift.
Built-In Accuracy.
Lifetime Alignment.

A BIG PRODUCTION EDGER

This Corley No. 6 Edger was designed for mills with high capacity and large boards. It is a rugged machine, made of high grade materials by skilled, experienced workmen. Lifetime alignment, with the husk and front table in one unit, provide extreme accuracy. The feed of 145 feet per minute insures top production.

We had a three saw model, in the steam and the last mill, 48" wide.

October pallet production, Dana, 200 of the PE-1402- this is the one that weighs between 50-65 pounds, when made with green lumber. 300-PE-1403, the ones with blue paint on the end. 450-PE-1404, the lid or top for the 1403. 780-PE-1405, the companies expendable, inter-plant pallet. 100-PE-1406, commonly known as "Brown-Lipe", named for the men who developed the clutches that were shipped on it. 700-PE-1414, a 2x2" stake used to support the 4 corners in side of a box. 2,000-PE-1414. A 2x2" longer block that was used between layers of clutches on a pallet. 1,000-PE-1422, These were the pine strips that were used in direct contact with the metal clutch plates, that were sawed from the Pine or Spruce boards we picked up at the lumberyards, in Fort Wayne. They were 36" long. All of this, accounted for 15 trips to Dana for the month.

One trip was made to Hendrickson, in Butler, and the load was 876-4x6" blocks, either 24' or 29" long. New Haven Wire and Cable, we made two trips there and a total of 300 pallets, 100- 24x36", and 200- 23x23", New Haven, had requested that we stencil their pallets with their name on the sides, which we did and they supplied the stencil. We tried various ways to do it, practicing, spray can,regular paint brush, and finally, Homer took a chisel and cut off the bristles of a 2" wide brush, to a length of 3/4" and that worked. Stiff bristles were what was needed.

Bohn Aluminum, received 1 trip, with 200-38"x40" block pallets. Crane-Edmund Corp, we made 2 trips there, one with 100-32x40" seat link pallets for bicycles, and the other trip with, 100-pedal pallets, and 50 kickstand pallets.

Then, we got a call from the purchasing agent at Dana in Auburn, asking if we would be interested in making a larger amount of the PE-1405 pallets for the Churubusco, Indiana, plant, which was a division, called, Dana Corp, Parts Craft Division. They gave us the number to call at that plant, and agreement was reached to supply those pallets for 10 cents more, for each piece, than the Auburn price, to pay for the delivery there. We started in October, and 3 trips were made that month, with a total of 282 being delivered. October was a very good month, and we were excited and happy that we were busy.

Lots of pallets mean there is a need for staples and nails, and a new shipment arrived at the local Farm Bureau CO-OP, for us to pick up on November 4th. Renner's Express, Inc., was the trucking company that delivered, and their main office was in Indianapolis. There were 12 boxes and they weighed an average of 47 pounds each. I had forgotten how heavy they were. There was an instruction on the trucking slip that noted, Do Not Drop. The staples and nails were glued in strips & can break.

I have not said anything recently about scaling logs, but something that happened for me as I was doing the scaling, by this time, was I took a different approach to adding the columns of figures, I had written down. I began a process of watching as I added a column, and I would take a 5 and a 4 that were next to each other and mentally make it a 9 and then add it to the last previous numbered total. In the end, any time there were a pair of numbers that would make either an 8, 9, or 10, they were added together. This method was easier for me.

There were times when the truck tires would be damaged or would fail and there is a slip for a tire and tube for the log truck, The tire was $60.00 and the tube was $6.22. The latest telephone bill noted the call to the other Dana plant, about making the PE-1405 pallets for them, and the long distance call was 25 cents. The total bill was $6.83, and included, service, at $4.90, a small amount of tax, 5 long distance calls and we were still on a party line for service with Indiana Bell.

November pallet production, Dana, 1,640 pallets and tops, 2,117 stakes and blocks, New Haven, 200, 23x23" pallets, Bohn, 160 pallets. Crane-Edmund, 206 pallets, with 6 being s trial of a new design. Dana Churubusco, 815, PE-1405 pallets. The pallets for Churubusco, were a great boost to our income. I do not have any list of farm lumber, for November.

We had received some steam engine oil, actually steam cylinder oil, when we got the mill. It is almost gone, and Homer sent Floyd Myers to Sinclair Oil Co., Fort Wayne branch, and purchased a 55 gallon drum of "Modoc Dark" oil. It cost $52.20, with tax and container deposit. It looked like the "dirty" engine oil, except a little thicker. It smelled and looked like another product we used, thread cutting oil, "Mitee" thread cutting oil. we used to cut threads on bolts. The oil smelled slightly of sulfur. While in town, Floyd also went to Bearings Inc. and picked up some bearings for a piece of equipment. The bearings were $13.44. A few days later, Floyd picked up 12-4x8' sheets of the 1/2" thick black insulation board, at the lumber yard. I do not know where they were used, because, when we were building the steam mill building, it was installed before the siding was installed.

Another 20 boxes of staples came in, to be picked up on December 13th. There was a trip to The Andersons again, to pick up an electric motor, motor oil, and other supplies. The motor was $224.12, the oil, 55 gallon, $42.90. There were 2 chainsaw chains, and some repairs at Culbertson's.

Timber was purchased from Eugene Elhe, and the loan that had been taken out to purchase the steam mill has been paid off. Another batch of lumber for the Dana sticks was purchased on December 16th. Jerry Myers, Floyd's son started working in mid December, part time. The sawdust blower had only enough pipe to get it outside the building when we first installed it, and there was another 30' purchased on December 23 to extend it. It cost $30.80. There would have to be a post installed to support the extended pipe.

The local newspaper, The Evening Star, published on December 24th, paper had the headline, JESUS CHRIST IS BORN, at the top of the front page, in letters 1-1/4 inch high. The whole front page is filled with articles that recount all of the things about wonderful event. 10 different articles, in total. If only we could be so blessed today, 52 years later, as I write this in February 2021.

There is a slip noting, a trailer tire was purchased for the trailer that hauled the skidding tractor and the backhoe, it cost $39.80.

The December pallet production, Dana, 1,458 pallets, and 1,900 blocks and stakes, Hendrickson, 534-blocks. New Haven 300 pallets, Bohn, 444, of 2 sizes of pallets. Crane-Edmund, 255 pallets of all 3 sizes, Dana Parts, 1,000 pallets.

The year's production, Dana, 21,454 pallets and tops, and 25,217 sticks, stakes and blocks. Hendrickson, 840 pallets, and 17,466 4x6x24"and 29" long. Clifford Hankey, 3,500 2x4x18" long. New Haven, 2,350 pallets. Bohn Aluminum, 3,200 pallets, and 1,286 stacking strips. Crane-Edmund, 2,036 pallets. Dana Parts, 2,197 pallets. Sold to Crook-Miller and Frick lumber, almost $900.00 of quality logs.

It was a good year, and we were looking forward to a new year with great expectations. There were a lot of good things that happened with the help of a good crew of dedicated workers, and the leadership that Homer provided.

# 1969

As the new year begins, there is a lot of paperwork that needs to be posted on the board, where the employees post their hours worked. The various sheets with the minimum wage information, the registered retail merchant certificate, and other important pieces. The certificate is necessary because we have to collect sales tax on direct sales to the public. If the farmer fills out an exemption, then no tax is collected. There is no tax collected for the pallets, because the product that is on them is not the final puchaser of the product. At the time, it was costing a business $3.50 a year to receive the Indiana certificate.

The sawmill had been a sole ownership operation up to this point, but that would be changing the first of April. After the change, the business would be, Abel"s Sawmill, Inc. The owners would be Homer, G'Nell, and George and Frances Abel. I mention this now because the lawyer was working on the paperwork now.

Because it did not get reported immediately, the mill received a letter from our insurance company, on January 6th. chewing us out for not sending a report of an accident that occurred on December 26,1968, immediately. The accident occurred when Homer had stopped to file the mill saw blade in the steam mill. The main engine had been shut off, but the feed engine had not. Floyd Myers, was cleaning up sawdust near the sawyers position and accidentally bumped the lever controlling the carriage feed. This caused Floyd to be pinched between the carriage and the husk, or the wood box that holds all of the mechanics of the main saw and the carriage. The direct cause of the incident,was the fact that the steam had not been shut off to the feed engine. Floyd's injuries were quite severe, bruised knees, ankles, and legs. The actual $ amount was $47.35, but Floyd was sore and bruised , and took time to recover, he came back to work on March 1st. Lesson is that when working around equipment , make sure all power is shut off. The report was sent the next day.

We sent a notice of price increase to Bohn Aluminum, on the 7th. of January, to become effective on February 1st. The new prices were for, 3x3x48"- 38cents each, in lots of 500. 3x3x37", 28 cents each, 2x4x18", 13-1/2 cents each, the 38x40 block pallet, $1.58 each, and the 44x48 block pallet, $2.70 each. This was confirmed by letter on January 10th, and was to be firm through December 31, 1969.

Homer had arranged with Frick Lumber Company, Inc, at Brimfield, Indiana, to saw 2x4, pallet runner material in early December, and again in January, when they sawed both ½ and 1" material for us, as we were having trouble keeping up with our sawing of pallet material. They delivered the later batch of lumber, 2,300' of 1" and 2,400' of 1/2" material, on 1-16-1969. The cost was $174.04.

In January, we were working in several tracts of timber, Basse, Pearson, Dunlap. Harry and Ralph were working these, and the Basse tract had been ongoing since September of last year. Some of these tracts required that the ground be frozen and it was. The Basse job was along a creek and the land was sandy, but frozen. On the 8th of January, it had been -17 degrees, was a record going back to 1948.

The Indiana Legislature, had set up for and the Governor signed , that there would be vehicle safety inspections in the state starting in January, of 1969, and by June 1st., all vehicles would have to be inspected. The other part of the requirement was that your vehicle had to be inspected to get your license plates in 1970. It all sounded good on paper, but it was really a pain. It was allowed to expire, per the inspection stations could not make enough money on it. 1980 was the last year it was in force. The only thing I miss about it is, there are a lot of improperly aimed headlights, now.

One of the things that came to our attention, early in January, was the people at the Indiana office of safety for boilers, let us know that we needed to get the boiler properly inspected soon. But no date was set and we did not pursue it at that time.

The steam sawmill is working quite well, and I am beginning to saw some, as well as learning to use the injector. That is quite tricky, in the sense that there is a very fine line between the cold and the steam valves use, to get the shot of steam to pick up the cold water and push it in the boiler. I did eventually get the hang of it and could do it quickly and properly. Steam power is really neat, there is a control at the sawyer position, that will open the governor a little more, which gives quite a little more power, if you are noticing a lag in the existing level of power. Probably the hardest thing, is learning how fast to feed with the small steam feed engine. It was exceptionally responsive. I have not yet sawed by myself, without my father in the building.

On January 15th, I got to go to Fort Wayne, and pick up the Pine lumber at Sutherland Lumber, and grease and some parts at Tractor Supply Co.

Fred Knowles, was a buyer for Central Veneer Co. in Indianapolis, and a few times, we sold Walnut logs to him. It was not very often that we had veneer grade Walnut. He lived in Hamilton, Ind.

The truck that delivered the load of pallet material from Frick Lbr. to our mill did not return empty, because we had a load of grade logs that we loaded, to take back and they allowed us a credit on the material we had purchased from them. In the end, the lumber they had delivered only cost our mill, $180, instead of $328.00.

The log deck in the steam mill was constructed so that there were 3 timbers to put the logs on to roll them to near the carriage. There was a 4x4x5', at the end near the carriage that was used to stop the logs from rolling to far. The timbers stopped about 3' from the carriage, and then there were 3 permanent blocks of wood attached to the floor. Those blocks were 4" below the level of the carriage. These blocks would then support a 4x4 that was laid on a support beside the 3 deck timbers. This allowed the log to be rolled on a level, temporary surface, onto the carriage. Then the crossover 4x4's were hinged and could be turned back, out of the way. When a log had been sawed on a side and needed to be turned, the 4x4's were put in place and then a 4x4" short block was laid cross ways on the crossover pieces and a steel bar was used to pry the log back onto the carriage. The bar was about 5 feet long. It worked very well, because the carriage had a 6x6" timber frame and you could put the bar over the timber and in contact with the log and pry and it slid right back on the carriage.

I personally, did not ever feed a log into the saw too quickly, causing the saw to stall in the cut, but it did happen a time or two, when my father was sawing. The regular governed speed of the engine was 175 RPM, and under load of sawing it would drop a little, but not more than 20 RPM. If the saw got stuck in the cut, the engine would slow down to about 80 RPM and keep right running. The situation required that the engine be shut down, and it required about 1 minute to do that. What happened was, the belt would slip around the driven mill shaft pulley, because it was only 28" in diameter. The engine drive pulley was 7' in diameter. The process required the closing of the steam supply valve at the engine. The handle was a cast iron circle, about 8" in diameter, which required about 5 revolutions of the handle to close. The belt would never run off the pulley, but, obviously, it did heat the pulley some, because of friction. Both times it happened, the belt lacing held together. The engine was stopped and then we had to pry and operate the feed engine in reverse to release it.

During January, there were 3 loads of Ash logs sold to the Crook-Miller Co. in Hicksville, Ohio. The income from those loads amounted to $451.15. Some of the larger logs had over 250 board feet of material in them.

A new order was sent in to Lansing, Michigan, for 400 saw teeth, half for mill saws and half for edger saws, and a dozen 10" mill Bastard files. The total cost of the order was $94.77. We had a 30 day pay agreement with the McHugh Co for these items, and if paid before the 30 days there was a discount. The actual payment was only, $92.90.

The pallet shipments for January were, Dana, 2,380 pallets and tops, and 2,050 blocking pieces, and this was 18 trips to their plant, with 4 days requiring 2 trips each. A very busy month for Dana. Bohn, 450 pallets and 1,114 3x3" shipping blocks in 4 trips. Crane-Edmund, 350 pallets in 3 trips. Dana, Churubusco, 250 pallets, in one trip.

The farm lumber went to, Dwight Carnahan, Richard Myers, Wayne Fogel, Lloyd Corbin, Wayne Shuman, Kenneth Koeppe, for a total of $110.00 sold. The logs were coming from Basse, Pearson and Dunlap tracts at this time.

February, had a sale of material for use in crating and shipping material for The Frazer Farm Equipment Co, on South Wayne St, between the junk yard and the railroad. They needed 100-2x2x6' long and 25-1x6x6' long at a cost of $34.38. At the time, they were selling parts for various farm equipment and rototillers.

The two 58" mill saws for the steam mill were taken to Indianapolis for "hammering" or re-setting their curvature and tension, so they would saw correctly. The cost was $32.50 for each saw and there were 300 saw bits purchased too, for an additional cost of $49.50, or $16.50 per 100 bits, which was less than we had been paying through the source at Lansing. I notice that the check for the tensioning and the bits was written by myself, meaning I took the saws to be worked on. The Company where the saws were tensioned, also sold and serviced Meadows and Corinth sawmills, as well as selling Cornell equipment for mills.

The next day, I was in Fort Wayne picking up pipe and pipe fittings for the steam mill, as well as the Pine lumber for the sticks for Dana. Just 2 days later, I am again in Fort Wayne at Fort Wayne Pipe and Supply on Anthony Blvd. Getting more larger pipe pieces for the steam mill. These 2 groups of pipe were purchased to replace all of the pipe and fittings from the boiler to the main engine. Looking back, this means that the original piping had several small leaks and needed to be replaced. There were bolt together joints and a valve as well as elbows and sections of pipe, in 3 and 4 inch sizes. We had to order these pieces cut and threaded, because our threading equipment only went to 2" diameter pipe.

The steam mill is operating very well and we are only using it about 4 days a week, because we can produce all the lumber we need in a shorter time with it, than with the original mill. The electric usage is up, due to the use of a well pump and the lighting needed in the new mill, as well as cutting a larger amount of lumber to length with the cut off saws, which are electric powered.

There were only 3 farm lumber customers in February, Chester Davis, Edward Carper, and Cary Diederich, with a combined cost of $14.00. February timber came from the Basse, Moore, and Waterson tracts, which Harry and Ralph are cutting, skidding and hauling.

Sunday, March 23rd. Started as a very typical Spring day. It had been very dry and the day was sunny and breezy. My parents and my family had gone to church, gone home after the service and I had eaten lunch with my family. My parents had stayed at church for a gathering and lunch. After my lunch, I had gone to a gravel pit to search for fossilized stones, and did not get back home until 2:45. My parents came home about 1:15, and saw smoke coming from the area of the new sawmill. There definitely was a fire in the new mill, and it was being accelerated by the wind that had picked up. The fire department was called and some lumber was saved but the building burned to the ground in about 20-25 minutes. All of the equipment was lost, including a forklift tractor and anything else that was burnable. The sawdust pile was the thing the fire department had the most trouble with.

The mill was a total loss., except for the boiler, which has a layer of brick all around it. All of the work that had transpired in the previous year was gone. There was nothing to do but go back to the original mill and use it to continue the pallet work. By Tuesday, we were working in the original mill again.

The most of the rest of the week I ran the mill sawing and Homer made a list of the lost items, so they could be turned in to the insurance company for reimbursement.

There was never a certainty of what caused the fire, but I believe it was the fact that the upper doors were left open on the boiler and the wind picked up speed and there were embers still it the firebox that drifted out and started the fire. Because no one was there when it started, there was no way to know what happened. None of us ever talked about it, we just went back to work.

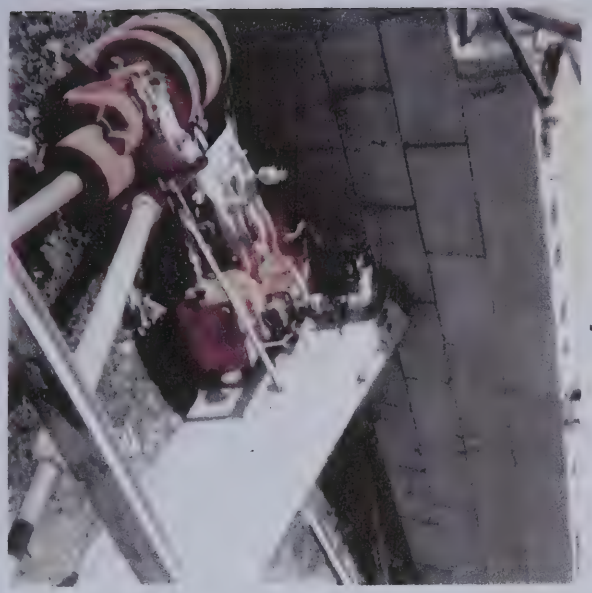
The list of items lost is quite lengthy, but I will list them. Each paragraph will be the notes from one column on the back of a business envelope. Extension cords, safety glasses, battery charger, 2- one half and one 1/4" drill, heavy duty industrial handsaw, banding equipment, hydraulic jacks, 20 ton railroad jack, small electric grinder, 2 well water pumps, ½ case of STP, 10- 2' sections on new blower pipe, air powered nail driver, galvanized wire, another water pump and tank, 3- push brooms, 2-HP electric motor and blower for sawdust, 1- one quarter HP electric motor, V-belts that ran blower, barrel pump, 3- oil cans.

The sawmill and 2 saws, 2- chain saws, forklift, edger, 4- cant hooks, 4-pry bars, 3-ladders, 1-barrel of steam engine oil, cut-off saw and the 5 HP motor that ran it, small mechanics tools and wrenches, shovels, pipe taps, pipe fittings, 5- boxes of new saw teeth, flat belts and lacing, 3,000 feet of lumber, new track for roller doors, 1/2" black insulating board, more boxes of belt lacer, heavy 6" vise, electric fittings, eaves trough, 6- new boiler flues, the extra sawmill drive cable, for the extra 16 foot of carriage.

Wood chisels, 2-new 6-Volt batteries and cables,flexible shaft, belt dressing, files for the sawmill, off-bear steel rollers. This came to a total of $4,163.31 of lost materials and equipment. Thankfully, the sawmill had fire insurance, and that is what it covered. Some of the lumber that was stored just outside the building was saved.

The fire was hard to extinguish, because it smoldered in the sawdust pile and the wood chips and bark that came off the logs near the mill. Even worse, it was so dry that the fire was working it's way to the woods which was only about 200 feet away. Homer put a plow on one of the tractors and plowed up some of the area to stop the spread of the fire.

After the 1969 mill fire.
Top left, Boiler, front of boiler. Middle two of the Chandler and Taylor engine.
Bottom, two cylinder feed engine, and log carriage.



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The fire did not stop the need for the pallet production, or the need for timber to be bought and made into material to make the pallets. The tracts of timber that were being cut and hauled by Ralph and Harry at this time were the Stebing and the Lester Anthony woods. The Anthony tract was located on the North side of Co. Rd. 64, And East of St. Rd. 1, South of St.Joe, Indiana. This was on the banks of the St. Joseph River, and had a lot of Cottonwood trees, as well as other species.

Clifford Billow (Cliff) began working the week before the steam mill burned. He had recently retired from the manager's position of the grain elevator in St. Joe, Indiana, and wanted to still work to make use of his time and do something constructive.

The next day after the fire, the records for rainfall indicate that we received 1and 2 tenths inches of rain. Too little too late. But that was a record for rainfall on that date, back to 1948. The last day of March 1969, the low temperature recorded was 13 degrees. Brrr!! The record for that year for the 29, 30 th. of March was 18 and 16 degrees respectively. The cold was a little bit insulting after what the weather had been the day of the fire.

The pallet production for March was, Dana, 3,120, and blocking pieces, 3,200, Bohn, blocking pieces, 813, Crane Edmund, 450, New Haven, 250 pallets. Dana, Crane Edmund, and Bohn got pallets delivered the day after the fire, from stock we had on hand, pre-made.

Homer bought lumber pre-sawed from Wible Lumber Co, in South Milford, Indiana, right after the fire to help with the tight time constraints we were working under. By the 27th, of March, Homer was in Fort Wayne at some of the suppliers, purchasing tools and equipment to replace what we needed to function, that had been lost in the fire.

I had mentioned earlier, that the sawmill was working toward becoming a small business corporation, and that occurred on April 1, 1969. Articles of Incorporation were official and the business was to engage primarily in the business of operating, owning and maintaining a sawmill; in buying and selling, acquiring and holding logs, timber and other timber products; purchasing, leasing, hiring, and acquiring real and personal property, improved and unimproved. 1,000 shares were issued without par value; commencing business with 200 shares at $5 per share. The original board of directors is Homer Abel, G'Nell Abel both of Auburn, and George Abel of Auburn Mobile Home Court, Auburn. The above paragraph is a direct copy from the local newspaper and the DeKalb County recorders office. The corporation would be known as Abel's Sawmill Inc.

One of the projects that is worthy of noting is that the fire burned one of the 2 fork lifts we had been using and it needed to be replaced. Homer was always ready to use what he had to make things work. The lift that burned was a farm tractor that he had re-built into a fork lift. It had been a CO OP-E-3, and the unit was constructed so the operator sat on the fuel tank and operated the tractor, mostly in the reverse gear and that meant that the clutch and the brakes were operated with the opposite feet that would have been normal.

His first thought was maybe, just maybe, the hydraulic cylinder from the burned lift could be repaired and used again on another tractor of the same make, which he already owned. He took the main cylinder apart, got a large expanding tri-section spring loaded hone, and cleaned the cylinder up and purchased new seals, and started on a rebuild replica of the original fork lift that had burned. It all came together and the cylinder worked as good as it had before the fire.

April begins with several expenditures that are part of the new Corporation. A new store license, $3.50, the Accounting company, Miles-Dever, Inc, for new corporate books to keep our records, $150. The new checks for the Corp. have come and they cost $11.61. Parts for the building of the replacement forklift, hydraulic system, from Tractor Supply Co., $76.10. Auburn City Hardware, parts for the forklift, $8.02.

Our employees hours for the first week in April were, Roger Means, 32-1/2 hours, Jerry Norton, 34 hours, George Abel, 48 hours, Homer Abel, 47-1/2 hours, C.R. Billow, 14 hours, Floyd Myers, 28 hours, DuWayne Goings, 26 hours.

The new woods that started this week was Cletah Bectol's, and it was a sizeable tract. The Botteron woods is about finished and the present total board feet is, 33,706. The final payment on the Velma Moore tract has been paid, and the Roger Stebing tract is about ½ finished. The Lester Waterson timber is all cut in the 1st. woods and the second woods will come when we have time.

Homer was in Michigan looking at a sawmill within 2 weeks of the fire, but did not purchase it. It was not what he was looking for.

Pallet production did not slow down after the fire, and here is an update as of 4-11-1969, Dana, 1,300 pallets, and 350 pieces of blocking, Bohn, 300 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 263 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets,

One of the trucks needed a set of brake shoes, and Homer installed them. Robert Madajewski, purchased 4-6x6x8', for $19.10. The cotton gloves are $3.24 for 6 pair and now Homer is the one who is wearing them most of the time. I have gone to working bare handed about 90% of the time. As a side note, when we saw White Oak, if my hands are wet, My hands turn a nice color of purple, and this is because the mill parts are steel and the Oak stains my hands.

On April 15 I got to go look at a sawmill in Ripley Co. Indiana, at Sunman. The mill was owned by, Clarence Spreckelson, and was no longer operating. There were 2 sawmills in the building, a right hand mill and a left hand mill. This worked well because when one needed to be worked on, the other could go right on working. The setup was such that there was a chain between the two mills to carry the logs in on. The channel was large enough to accommodate a log that was up to 3' in diameter. There was no way we could purchase the mills because they wanted to sell both mills, and the price was above what we could pay. It was interesting to see what they had developed and how it worked.

There were several slips for minor amounts of money that were for purchase of small parts to make up the works for the replacement forklift. The fork lift is coming along nicely and will soon be ready for use.

Harry Strong delivered 2 loads of better quality logs to Holmes and Co. in Columbia City. One of my trips to Fort Wayne, was to purchase a new banding tool with a roll of banding, and I got a set hat was meant for 5/8 and 3/4" banding and had to take it back and get a set for 1/2" banding, I did not know the difference at the time, but I learned quickly.

Homer had been looking for a sawmill and it came in the form of the Shoudel mill that was located at the corner of Co Rd 29 and 68 in Southern DeKalb County.

The sawmill had a carriage that was 16' long and would open back to accommodate a 42" log, and was like all the other sawmills we had owned, was totally a hand set type. This meant that you had to physically move the headblocks by pulling or pushing a "D" handle lever, actually a 1/2" diameter rod. Also, the dogs that hold the log in place had to be set manually, and all of the turning of the logs was done with a cant hook. Usually, a 5' long bar was used to push and pry the log after it had been turned to another position. This mill was a left hand mill, meaning that the carriage was on the left of the sawyer. This mill was manufactured by the Frick Company, and had no connection to the mill in Brimfield, Indana, on U.S. 6. Homer purchased the mill for $1,000, from Roy Schoudel, a son of the original owner, Mike Schoudel. Homer also got the power unit that was with the mill. It was a International 15-30 farm tractor on steel wheels, and in good operating condition. The purchase also included the drive belt, and cant hooks. The date of the check is May 13th.

The location Homer picked for the new mill was about ½ way between where the original mill and the steam mill had been located, and slightly to the South. So 3 weeks after the fire, there was to be another sawmill, with the capacity of the steam mill, as far as size and capacity. The tractor would serve as the power unit for as long as it took to locate a really suitable power unit. Homer had not given up on the possibility of re-building the steam mill, but we needed a larger mill to supply our needs, at the present time.

While Homer was still working full time, he is already very much in the thinking and planning stages for both the new mill and the next steps to purchase all that was needed to build another steam mill. While all of this is going on, he is also still cutting timber himself. He personally delivered a load of Ash to Hicksville. There were 4 different qualities for the Ash logs. The top level paid at $140 per one thousand bd ft. the next level paid at $125, the 3rd. At $110, and the 4th. At $100. The load had 1,402 feet and paid $169.32.

About the same time, I was sent to Ohio, between Hicksville and Paulding to look at a large power unit. I arrive at the address, and get out of the truck, and I see a German Shepherd coming my way. He does not look to be a danger to me, so I walk to the house and knock on the door, by now the dog has followed me to the house and has now started barking , seriously. A Mr. William Tompson answered the door, and his first words were, " How did you get here?, that dog should have bitten you." He came out and we went to look at the power unit. On our way out to look, I notice that he has a military tank, that he has gutted and is using for a farm tractor, and when I asked about it, he said that it was quite successful in it's use as a tractor.

The power unit was to my eyes a monster, as I was still quite wet behind the ears about large equipment. It was totally enclosed with a steel case, and stood about 5-1/2' high. At nearly 4' wide and 6-1/2' long, I had never seen anything like it. We took the side panels off the unit, and inside was a Hercules engine with a 4-speed transmission and a reverse gear too. He said it had run as recently as 2 years before, and he felt with a little coaxing it would run again. It turned out to be rated at 226 horsepower at 2,000 RPM. It was a WW-2 military surplus unit he had bought, and he really did not have any use for it now. When I got home, I told my father what it's capabilities were, and he was excited. Homer purchased the engine on April 17th. When it came time to go get it, Homer took the 20' semi trailer and Mr. Thompson had a large fork lift to load it with. When Homer got home with this treasure, I'm sure my mother thought he had lost his mind, buying this monster. It was parked South of the garden building along the side of the road. It was a few days later, before he had time to start working on it.

Top of Hercules engine

The engine had been used as a power unit to run a large generator,for an Army camp, during WW2, and he had bought it for another purpose and was not going to use it now. Homer paid $200.00 for it and I am sure he felt he had gotten a bargain. It had a flat belt pulley that was 16" wide, and if it ran, it would be super for what he wanted to use it for.

Homer was much more desirous of building another steam powered mill than I realized at the time. I knew he was gone almost every day after the fire, but I had no idea at the time what and where he was going. I believe Homer was again in contact with John Harper, as well as Mr. Moldthan. He also had been getting a magazine titled, The Iron Men Album, published in Enola, Pennsylvania, for several years. That magazine also had advertisements of items for sale. I think the magazine could have been the source of the items he was calling and looking about. Several calls were made to Edmore, Michigan, before he went.

The process of getting ready to take the truck to Michigan, required some upkeep and repairs, brakes, lights, exhaust and other things. Homer was very busy doing all of this, himself. The parts were purchased on the 19th. and the 20th. He went for the first trip for the steam engine on the 22nd. He had driven up to see the steam engine and there is a large hill on both sides of a stream in Ionia Michigan, with a stop light at the bottom of the hill. That made him want to repair the brakes on the truck. There was also a call made from Bellview, Michigan. Bellview was where the Original steam engine for the mill that burned had come from, when it was sold to Mr. Moldthan, by Mr. Wildt, in 1950.

April 22, Homer was driving to two locations in Michigan, one was at Edmore, Michigan, and the other was at Six Lakes. Edmore was on Michigan St. Rd. 46. This was his original destination. He purchased a Ball and Wood steam engine there, for $310. It was a simple engine with a bore of 9" and a stroke of 11". This engine would have run our mill with plenty of power, and probably rated at 80 HP. The owner was a man by the name of John List. This engine had 2 flywheels, one was 5' and the other was 4' in diameter. Mr. List told him that there was a sawmill just a few miles away on the same road to the West. Homer went there and a Mr. Duane Hanson was home and said, "Yes, I have a sawmill for sale. Homer purchased it for $225.00. The sawmill was powered with a 3 Phase electric motor, which Homer would use later. The yellow and black Chevy truck was his transportation. When he was ready to go get the sawmill, I went along and we took the other truck and enough tools to disassemble the mill, there had been agreement that there would be a loader there to load the mill.

Francis Bell has taken a job hauling fuel with a tank truck to farmers and businesses, and he was working for the Dekalb Co. Farm Bureau CO-OP, in Auburn. So he became the driver for the delivery of fuel for our sawmill.

While Homer was in Michigan, he stayed one night in a motel for $3.00 for a single. On April 26th. on his way home, he stopped at Charles Wildt's to talk with him about he and his father's surplus sales business in the 1920's through the 1950's. Homer asked him if he still had tools and equipment, and he said he did. Homer purchased $110.00 of items from him that day. The old Chevy truck handled the trip very well.

On the 29th. I went to The Anderson's to pick up 55 gallon of motor oil, an ax handle and a scoop shovel. I had taken the 1954 Chevy 1 ton truck, to get the oil. The oil cost, $42.91.

The Ball and Wood steam engine, on the 1947 Chevy.
It sat this way from when it came here until sold at auction in 1977.

The bill came from the Lawyers office, for the fees for filing the corporation. The total was $302.85. The call for the fire department for the mill fire was $50.00. One of the tools that was lost in the fire was, the 7-1/4" electric handsaw. The new one was a Black and Decker, 987 builders saw, It cost $73.95. I still have the saw and it has never had new brushes and works great yet in 2021.

The April farm lumber is minimal, Lester Waterson, Charles Ort, Lloyd Schrader, Duwayne Dilley, Eldon Hile, they had a total of, $37.00.

With the purchase of the Schoudel sawmill , there is the need to build the next building to house it. That requires ladders, and nails, electrical wire and parts. 1- 20' wood extension ladder, 1-32' wood extension ladder, 50 pound of 8d, 50 pound of, 16d common spikes, and 50 pounds of 20d spikes, and assorted electrical items. The ladders were about $75.00 and the other items were $$40.50. There were also 200 pounds of 2-1/2" stiff stock pallet nails ordered, and these would be used in the construction of the new building. A new level and square were also purchased.

The Corporation purchased new Invoices for our work and 2,000 sets were ordered for $46.98.

The pallet production update is as follows, Dana, 1,450 pallets and 1,350 blocking pieces, Bohn,537 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 320 pallets, New haven, 520 pallets, through April 30th.
The neighbor telling another about his timber sale worked very well, Lester Anthony told Mr. M.E. Rhodes about his sale and Mr. Rhodes contacted Homer to tell him he wanted to sell his. Mr. Rhodes lived South of Mr. Anthony on the other side of C.R. 64, next to the St. Joe River. He too, had a lot of Cottonwood trees and some other as well. Homer made an agreement to purchase and gave a down payment of, $500.00.

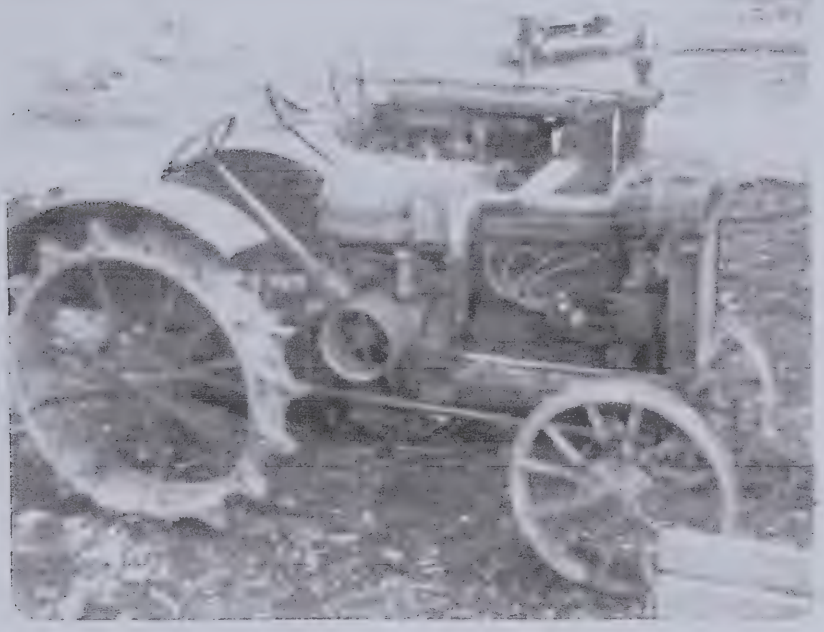
A sad note, John Harper passed away May 17th. 1969. This is the man that started Homer on the path to steam power for a sawmill. He was 80 years and 9 months old. He was one of the original line of steam operators, from the golden age of steam power.

On May 19th, Homer went to Tractor Supply Co. and purchased 2 large heavy duty batteries to use in trying to start the Hercules engine. They cost $50.94. Also got a joiner cable to make them a super duty 12 volt system.

Postage stamps are 6 cents for regular letters. The April telephone bill came and I now know that we went to Six Lakes, Michigan on the 25th. Of April.

Homer went to an auction of Maxon Lumber Company, South of Kendallville, at the Southeast corner of St Rd 3 and Lisbon road, on 5-31-1969, his intention was to purchase a much better forklift. I have the slips from the auction, and he bought some saws for $12.50, hooks for $2.50, a pile of iron, for $5.00, filters for $1.00, the forklift for $3,600.00, rollers for $70.00, switch box, edger, and blower, plus a 2HP motor, for,$400.00, a mud saw to cut ahead of the mill saw to remove the dirt, $110.00, crowbar and a wrench for , $1.50. The total was $4,198.50.The forklift was only 3 years old at this time, and was an International 504 with a #5504 , 21' reach forklift. Homer went to a lot of auctions in his lifetime and this was the most he ever spent.

Farm lumber for May was, Gene Wilson, Albert Weicht, Ken Nodine, Ray Foltz, Total was $107.00, for the group.



Top, the 15-30 tractor, in the back ground, the F-14 tractor. Middle, and bottom, summer of 1969. the setup of the Schoudel mill after the fire. Initially powered with the 15-30 tractor.

Late in May, is the first mention of Glen Cook, as casual labor, helping ditch. Homer was already installing the tile that would keep the new mill dry.

About this time, Homer is working on the Hercules engine, He has all of the original paperwork with it. In the search, he discovers that the engine has dual ignition and 2 carburetors. The ignition has 2 distributors and each of them has 2 sets of points and condensers. The heads are 3 cylinders each, for the 6 cylinder engine. Each set of three has a distributor, and a carburetor. The cylinders are 5-3/4" bore and a 6" stroke, for a 935 cubic inch displacement. The Horse power was rated at 226 at 2,000 RPM. The oil pan holds 13 quarts of oil, and the cooling system requires approximately 8 gallons to fill. The belt driven fan has the ability to turn the fan blades so they either force air through the radiator or suck the air through.

On the evening that he was trying to start the engine, I was watching him, he had poured some gas in both carburetors, and pushed the starter button. One cylinder fired and the next back-fired up through the carburetor, he was close enough that he got a wonderful "sunburn" on the face and down the front of his t-shirt. Remember, this unit is sitting on a semi-trailer, about 4 feet off the ground and he is perched, standing on the 1/4" plate where the covers go on the sides of the engine to make it weather proof. That plate is 1' above the trailer floor. Thankfully he did not fall off. He was sore for several days but did not have to go to the doctor. About 5 minutes after the sun-burn, the engine started and ran for the first time for us. It had no muffler, so it had a deep rumble, but there was no indication that there were any leaks or problems with the engine. If I remember correctly, we used plank to slide it off the trailer and to the ground. It did have steel runners on the bottom to support and move it around.

Homer had been to the bank and received approval to borrow $5,000.00 to go to the Maxon sawmill auction and purchase the forklift and other equipment. These purchases nearly set us up to put together a complete mill again. There was another thing that would need to be purchased, and it came to light when he started figuring how to place the Hercules engine to operate the mill and keep it all under the new building roof without making a jog in the building. To use the new engine with flat belting, there would need to be an overhead shaft to transfer the power to the mill. If the engine was set to operate directly with a belt in line, the engine would be in line with the mill itself, because of the engine rotation. This mill was a left hand mill, and the engine would have worked with a right hand mill. The over head shaft would take the power from the engine and extend it across above where the edger would be and then another belt would come from the overhead shaft down to the mill shaft. In his conversation with Mr. Wildt at Belleview, Homer discovered that there was still a lot of shafting in the old building where the Wildt's had a mill. It would take until mid July to purchase the required shafting. Meanwhile we were sawing with both the original Belsaw mill and the Schoudel mill, which as of yet did not have a roof over it. The building was in progress, but not nearly done yet.

Hal Williams came to work, early in June, part time, 9-12 hours a week. Glen Cook came on as a regular part time employee, at the same time as Mr. Prichard. With the Corporation, we had to change the insurance coverage, and the cost rose some. One of the middle men purchasing pallets from us and then re-selling them, left us with an amount unpaid of $140.00. In all of the time we operated the mill, this was the only bill that was not paid. It did get paid when his estate was settled a few years later.

June 4th, was a special day, the Abel family gained a new member, with the arrival of daughter Marie Elizabeth Abel, the first grand daughter for Homer, and G'Nell.

The new mill framing is coming along well. The roof line is almost ready for the metal. The sides are going to get a relative quick fix. It won't cost what new metal or wood would cost. We are going to use the burned metal from the steam building. It needed to be gathered up anyway, so let's flatten it and nail it up for siding, and that's what happened. Sawmills of this era were rarely closed up anywhere near air tight, so this would work. The new roofing metal was purchased in two trips, on June 25th. and 28th. For $180.00.

Floyd Myers, is back to working full time, as a matter of fact, he worked 44 hours the last week of June. Warren Carnahan started working the last week of June as well. He worked 11 hours the first week. The next week Warren worked 40-1/2 hours. Glen Cook is also working 40 hours.

June 25th, Homer bought a 7-1/4" Black and Decker right angle grinder, at a cost of $145.00. As of this writing in 2021, it is still running well. I can hardly use it now because of it's weight. It still has it's original cord, with a replacement plug. The extra accessories for the grinder were a cup grinding wheel, and 2 flat 1/4"x7-1/4" grinding wheels, a 5" cup wire brush and a flat backing disc to use with sand paper.

Homer has been working very hard, lately, 53-54 hours on his paycheck, but his mind was working another 10-15, I'm sure. I'm working 54 hours as well. The woods at Rhodes is pretty well done.

Homer did something to smash his finger on June 30, and had to have stitches. No one else has been injured in the process of the new construction, thankfully.

There were 2 farm lumber customers, in June. Hubert McNamara, purchased 4-3x8x14' and 12-2x4x14', for re-building a farm wagon from the axles up. $28.00, and Wallace Miles, 240' of Oak lumber, $24.00.

The June pallet production, Dana, 2,530 pallets, and 2,350 stakes, Bohn, 425 pallets and 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 300 pallets, New Haven, 550 pallets. A good month.

There are now 3 gasoline tanks, truck, 233 gallon, 1st. Mill tank, 264 gallon, and the new mill tank, 241 gallon, and it has a direct line buried in the ground going to the Hercules engine. After we made the switch to running the new mill only the tank from the first mill was moved and tied into the line to Hercules. This was July 3rd.

Something happened with my first check in July, I actually signed it personally. That was really rare, my wife usually signed my check. One of the things we learned about the Hercules, was that, the starter spring needed replaced quite often, thankfully it only cost $2.25 each time plus the time to replace it. The reason was , when it was originally being used , the fuel tank would have been directly connected and it ran constantly. We were starting and stopping it on the days it was used, at least 4 times and some times more a day.

The Rhodes timber has been cut and hauled, and the last payment made on July 11. Homer left early on the 12th. To go to Hanson's, were we went to pick up the rest of the sawmill in Six Lakes, Michigan. Then he was going to stop on the way back, at Wildt's and purchase the belting , the husk, shaft and pulleys from there. Those items at Blleview, cost $300.00. That trip was all in one day and the truck was loaded when he returned.

The timber cut for Lester Anthony was finished early in June, and the Rhodes tract was started the next day. The Rhodes contract, says, May 15, 1969. Agreement between Abel's sawmill Inc., and M. E. Rhodes, for timber along the St. Joe river, South of the Dilts bridge, Co. Rd. 64, ( The covered bridge was still there at that time), $30.00 per thousand-log scale straight through, right-of-way by lane. One year from above to remove. No tops to be left in the river. $500.00 advance today, balance when completed, or partial sooner. Signed. Homer said there were some very large Cottonwood trees in the wooded area and they would be the largest we had ever purchased.

The Belsaw mill got new main shaft bearings, $52.00. They were 2-3/16" inside diameter. I think this is the first time they were replaced since they were installed in 1965. The bearings came from Transmission & Fluid Equipment, in Fort Wayne. Other repairs were done to the 1962 Dodge truck, it needed a water pump, and the work was done at Daily Motor Sales, in Auburn, the cost was, $38.76. At that time the truck had 66,401 miles on it.

June 9th. LeRoy Rudolph had us saw some logs. 1,200 board feet of lumber. The charge was $40.00. When they came to get the lumber, I was sawing, and had a view of the driveway where they drove in. They parked and started walking toward the building. I happened to look up just as LeRoy tripped over a piece of debris on the ground. He was able to roll up in a ball as he fell and made one complete rotation and came back up on his feet. It was amazing to watch.

June 15, there was a request from the sawmill to Dana, to increase the prices of the products we supplied to them. They were all accepted, by J.E. Brown., for Dana. The increase amounted to an average of 12-1/2 cents, on 9 different products. The largest was 30 cents for the PE-1402 heavy duty pallet, 40x48" with 3/4" boards, top and bottom. The smallest was for the dry Pine for dividing strips @ 2 cents each.

The largest Cottonwood tree has been cut at the Rhodes tract. Harry came into the log yard with one log on his truck about the middle of June. The log was 8-1/2' long and the diameter was slightly oval shaped, at 5-1/2x6' . I wish we had taken a picture of it on the truck, it was a sight to behold. That was not all of the large logs from that tree, there were 4 more that length, that came in one log at a time. Then there were 7 more logs from the tree, in two more loads. There were other Cottonwood trees that were 40 plus inches in diameter. This cottonwood all got cut into 1/2" thick boards for the top material of pallets, that were going to be used only one time. If we had a band sawmill available to cut the Cottonwoods, there would have been nearly twice as much lumber from them. Our mill was cutting away 1/4" plus on every cut, and a band saw blade would have taken one half of that thickness.

There is a slip that shows the purchase of saw teeth and shanks for the new mill saw, and the edger, too. The order was to come from Automatic saw Co., in Indianapolis. This is the company where we took our saws to be tensioned or hammered. The total bill came to $182.19, and there was a hand written note at the bottom of the bill saying, Thank-You for the nice order, from Mr. Harry O. Moore. He was the man that did the tensioning of the saws.

The original mill Continental engine needs to have it's intake and exhaust valves re-surfaced, and Allison's did that work for $6.60. The Hercules engine needed the points and condensor replaced, also.

The Electric bill for the mill was $27.04 for the month of May, due in June. The bill reflects the extra motors and lights that were being used at this time. The light bulbs were 200 watt rough service.

Homer is taking a little time from the new sawmill to start on the boiler check out and re-piping. The boiler proper, was not hurt in the fire, as it had walls of brick around it. Some of the external items needed replacing, the pipes that were used for injecting water into the boiler, the wood blocks that were holding the Steel framework tight around the boiler, and the piping that carried steam to the engine, all needed to be repaired or replaced. The pipe to the engine was removed and also the large valve at the top of the boiler was to be replaced. Then a plug was installed in the out going side of the large valve. All of the flues needed to be checked, and some were re-rolled with a special roller. There were 2 that got replaced and there were other things that were done. It still did not get inspected. There was also the need to build a building around the boiler before winter, so the brickwork could dry out and would not freeze during the winter.

Some of the saw bits that were ordered through Harry O. Moore, came directly from the manufacturer, Simonds in Fitchburg, Mass.

The 1952 Chevy truck needed a new brake lining for the emergency brake, this was needed to comply with the requirements of the vehicle inspection law that was currently in place in Indiana. The parts cost $24.00.

Homer wanted to purchase the sawmill that was in the Wildts large building at the rear of the property North of Belleview. During the time since Homer was last there, Mr. Wildt had to go to a nursing home, and Homer had to work with Richard Green, He was now in charge of Mr. Wildt's properties. Homer paid $1,000.00 for the sawmill, and this included the sawmill, a 4-saw edger, and several pieces of very large shafting, some with several pullys on them.

This would be a very large under-taking, because the building had lost most of it's roof and the sawmill was on the 2nd floor of the building. We went in a while later with railroad jacks, and blocking and shored up the building to remove the equipment. The process also required making a new floor for the area where the equipment was, with planking, Once that was done, we could tie a chain on the pieces, one-at-a-time and move them to where they could be picked up with the forklift and transported to an area to load. There was also a lot of chainsaw work required just to get room to pick the pieces up and move away from the building. Tree

July 26th, Harry and Ralph started on the Bechtol woods. The records show that the was not finished until September 19th. It was one of the larger tracts we harvested. Also on the 26th, I went to Fort Wayne to pick up boards for the pine sticks for Dana, and also to Tractor Supply Co for supplies of items for lights, mirrors, etc. for the trucks, to get things up to date for safety inspection. The Belsaw mill tank was fueled with 250 gallon and the truck tank with 236 gallon.

The new mill is about to be electrified, the parts were picked up at Mossman-Yarnelle Co. for $48.17. Floyd Myers stopped at Allison's and picked up spark plugs for the Dodge truck and some thirty Amp fuses for the mill building. He had just made a delivery to Dana Corp.

Duo-fast staples and nails were ordered on a regular basis, and Floyd picked them up at the Farm Bureau CO-OP that day as well.

Homer purchased a flexible shaft to connect direct to a electric motor with a coupler. The motor would have a speed of 1725 RPM, to be used for grinding solid tooth saw gullets, deeper.

The July pallet production was, Dana, 2,700 pallets, and 1,750 blocking pieces, Bohn, 300 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 300 pallets, Electric motors and Specialties, Garrett, 55 pallets in 3 different sizes. New Haven, 200 pallets.

My parents, had not used any slab wood for heating the house, during the winter of 1968-1969, and it was the last year they could purchase coal in Auburn. Gengnagel Fuel Co. had been the coal supplier. Their office was located in a former Railroad Freight building just West of the railroad crossing on the South side of West 7th. St., it is presently in 2021, a used auto lot.

Homer made a trip to Fort Wayne, to Tractor Supply Co, and Transmission and fluid Equipment, to pick up parts and supplies. Spent over $100.00.

I do not have a lot of paperwork for early August. I do have an interesting piece from a newspaper account to share. The 19th. Annual exhibition of the Old time Threshers and Sawmill Operators, was held on August 13-17th, 1969. It was held on the James Whitbey farm. (This is the farm that would become Carroll High School later.) Steam traction engines, with memorable names as, Advance, Baker, Huber, Case, Geiser, Nichols & Shepherd,Titan, Rumely, Greyhound, Port Huron, Frick, Oil Pull, and Minneapolis, were on display and would be used in plowing, hill climbing, teeter-totter, grain threshing, sawing lumber, corn husking, corn shelling, and Baker fan tests. There were also Stage Coach rides available as well as all kinds of Hit and Miss engines running too. There were a lot of food vendors, as well as a stage show. Some of the hit and miss engines were used to shell corn, make ice cream, and pop corn. There was also a lot of old time equipment there to see and enjoy. Thanks to Fort Wayne Newspapers, for some of the above information.

Being most of our full time sawmill crew had been around for our steam mill or knew about it, Homer decided that we should go to the show on Friday August 15th. I had a car that would seat 6, so I drove. We went in the afternoon and came back about our normal quitting time. Everyone had a good time. When the time came for the farm to become space for the school, the show moved to East of New Haven and the name changed too.

Some of the notes about the new mill being operational were a little premature, true, the mill was all set up and in place. We were using it, but the sawdust blower needed more pipe. The overhead shaft was not yet in place, to transfer power, with the Hercules. We were able to saw with the 15-30 tractor, So, we were still sawing with the Belsaw mill. 50% of the time. The building was almost done and we were getting close to full time operation. I know this because, there is a bill for pipe to extend the sawdust blower pipe further, dated 8-19-1969.

Wednesday, August 20, I am on my way to Maumee, Ohio to pick up supplies for the sawmill, minding my own business, on old Ohio St. Rd. 24 East of Defiance, Ohio. I look in my mirror and I see a highway patrol car behind me, his flashing red lights on and I pull over. After the usual formalities , "You are missing your mud flaps." His next comment was, "I need you to follow me to my yard" I did so, and I parked the truck, and he transported me to downtown Defiance. I was escorted to a room. My bond was $25.00, and I could be on my way. I had sawmill checks, and they would not accept a check. Mind you, it is Wednesday, and it is now after noon and the banks are closed, so I can't cash a check to get cash. I call back to the sawmill, and explain my situation, and Homer comes to bail me out. I was not officially in jail, but I could not go anywhere until dad got there. I was allowed to take the truck and drive back home, though. The trooper, C.A,Till, (CAT), made his catch.

Top left, large Sycamore being sawed. Other 3 are logs on the log yard.

On Friday, the 22nd. there is a slip that we purchased a large quantity of repair parts for the trucks, light bulbs, flashers, replacement tail-brake light kits, a muffler, a spool of wire, mud flaps. It appears Homer thought we should go over all of the trucks and fix all of the possible things that a policeman would stop us for . We literally were shutting the barn door after the cows were out.

August 28th. I went to Sutherland lumber and picked up more of the Pine for the Dana strips, and roofing for the new mill, for $101.75. On the 29th, I again went to The Andersons, and got there safely, and picked up 2- 55 gallon drums of motor oil, $89.26. Then I went to the general merchandise store to purchase supplies.

The farm lumber for August was, Ralph Sechler and Son, lumber to put some of their brine vats on, 8-4x4x8', 12-4x4x10', 4-2x8x10', $37.25. Walter Reinhadt, 1-2x14x10', $2.88, Howard Grimm, 8-10- and 12', 2" thick material $37.00. Maurice Terry, 34 pieces of various sizes, $18.00.

The August pallet numbers, Dana, 2,400 pallets, and 2,650 blocking pieces. Bohn, 400 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 217 pallets, New Haven, 400 pallets.

September begins on the 2nd. With Warren Carnahan signing in with the Dekalb County Central School district's Industrial Cooperative Training program. He would be going to school in the mornings and working in the afternoons. Skills he would be learning were, general repairs, construction of pallets, supervised operator of mill,(sawyer), operator of the edger, sizing boards, learning to operate the forklift, and delivery of pallets. It would be considered as 500 hours of training.

The building is about finished and the overhead shaft supporting timber is in place, It was sawed out, and is 6"x 20" x16 feet long and has been supported with large U-Bolts and is well secured to take the pull of a 14-16" flat belt pulling on it in two directions. There will be 3- bearing hangers supported off of the timber to carry the shaft across, so the belt can go from the Hercules, up to the shaft, across and the other belt will go back down to power the main mill shaft. The actual belts a this time will be only 12" wide, as they came from Mr. Wildts stockpile of parts and materials that Homer purchased from him earlier. The belts were probably already 40 years old but they had been in storage where it was dry and out of the sunlight. They were manufactured of woven cotton and were 10-ply with a rubberized material in with the fabric.

The International forklift got it's clutch plate replaced, and Homer did the change, splitting the tractor to do it. The new plate cost, $48.35. It was purchased from the dealer in Waterloo, Dunn Bros.

Another load of "cull" logs were purchased from Crook-Miller in Hicksville. Cost was $176.00. There was a notice from both of the suppliers that our cost of saw bits was going to rise by a $1.10 per box of 100 bits, effective on 9-6-1969. one of the tires on the trucks, needed a new tube and I went to pick it up at S&S tire Co. on West7th. St, in Auburn, Cost was, $16.76.

Homer went to another auction, of the items of Mahlon Hauffman, where he bought, several lots of small steel and other useful items for no more than, $4.00 for the most and a lot of them for 25 cents. All he purchased only cost $10.75. On the 30th, he bought a new chain for his main chainsaw. $21.89.

By the end of the month, we were fully operational with the Hercules engine, and it was nice to have enough power to not worry about being real careful about sticking the saw.

The September farm lumber was significant, Ted Congleton, $25.23, Lester Meschberger, 6-3x4x6', $4.00, Jerry Surface, 4-2x6x20', 3-2x8x20', 10-2x6x12', 40-2x4x12', 20-2x4x10', for $90.00, Orville Johnson, 4-1x12x12', 4-1x12x8', $10.00, Blaine Warstler, 480' of White Oak lumber, $61.20, Wilbert Toney, 16-tapered posts 7' long. He came and got them 4 and 5 at a time, over a period of 3 weeks. He was paying as he went each time. His total was, $13.87. Don Warstler, 1-4x4x14', $2.00, Russell Myers, 5-2x9x12', $11.25, Carl Perkins, 3-2x4x16', $4.08, we had these in stock, and he ordered some more to be delivered later in the day. Floyd delivered the following, later. 2-2x8x17', 16-1x4x12', 9-2x5x12', for a total of $25.38, plus a delivery charge of $2.50. Ora Lyons, 2-4x6x16', 2-4x6x10', $11.51, Dwight Carnahan, 18-1x5x16, 2-2x4x12', $17.50, Wm. J. Burns, 22-1x5x16', $18.25, Dekalb County Home, 693' of White Oak lumber, $86.62, Forest Trenary, White Oak lumber, $93.25. This was the largest farm lumber month in quite a while.

The September pallets were, Dana, 2,250 pallets, and 3,250 blocking pieces, Bohn, 550 pallets, and 1,250 pieces of blocking, Crane-Edmund, 100 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets.

An update on the people working at the sawmill as of October 1st. Harry Strong, timber cutter, skidder and hauler. Ralph Hose, timber cutter, Jerry Norton, pallet maker, off-bearer at mill, edger operator and cut-off saw (slab wood, and pallet material). Floyd Myers, edger, cutting material to length for pallets, pallet maker, pallet delivery. Glen Cook, cut-off saw and off-bearer, clean-up. Hal Williams, pallet maker. George Abel, sawyer, log yard scaler, forklift driver, saw mill maintenance, parts pick-up, pallet delivery, cut-off saw operator, pallet maker when needed, and log yard measure and chainsaw, (cutting logs to length for various lengths), making the best use of the total length of the log. DuWayne Goings, pallet making, edger, cut-off saw and pallet delivery. Homer Abel owner and knows every job and so much more. G'Nell Abel, phone calls, keeping the paperwork in order, and serving us nice treats at break time, office purchases and much more. Warren Carnahan, learning most of the jobs in the sawmill, and for someone young, really doing well.

A small tract of timber was purchased from Ed Wade, and it is about finished, The Bechtol tract is done and paid for. The insurance for the new year for our liability insurance, is $1373.00 A new Baldor 2HP electric motor was purchased, for $109.10 and I was the one to go get it. It was purchased at Wagner Electric of Fort Wayne. It is to be noted that we purchased from a quite large group of companies, both in Auburn, and Fort Wayne. The electric bill for October, was $30.63.

The new mill building is getting larger, more roofing was purchased, to put roof over the Hercules, and the overhead shaft area, and storage. The material was purchased at Sutherland Lbr., the 18 sheets of steel were Strong Panel by name, and covered 30" wide and 18' long for each sheet. The same trip also saw a purchase of 35-pine 1x10x16' long, for another batch of strips for Dana.

Some of the paperwork for October was missing, and I am going to note the October farm lumber now. Robert Jennings, 2-2x10x15' $6.25, Glen Schultz, 35-2x4x14, 35-2x4x12', Jerry Surface, 14-1x5x16', 141x5x10', 6-1x5x14', Terry Hartman, 16' long material, James Grimm, 142 gate boards mostly 16' long, DuWayne Haynes, fence boards, and posts, Verlin Johnson, 8'x18' of 2" plank to cover a solid area. Leonard Smith, 1-3x6x10', Russel Myers, $60.00 of mixed White Oak lumber.

Pallets for October, Dana, 2,500 pallets, 2,975blocking pieces, Bohn, 750 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 325 pallets, Electric motors and Specialties, 28 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets. The building over the boiler is slowly progressing and will be done soon.

A lot of the items that we pick up at the supply houses in Fort Wayne, are called in by Homer and some of the rest of us go pick up the items. The next item, Homer went and picked up after calling ahead to order it. It was a 5 HP Master brand electric motor, 1,750 RPM, 115/230/60/ 1 Phase repulsion induction, explosion proof, ball bearing motor, Frame 254U. $325.00. Sold by Nussbaum Electric Co., Inc. I am not sure what it's application was, but it was kept when we sold at auction in 1977.

Early in November, the new mill got a change in the way the sawdust was removed. Homer bought a used light pole, and placed it about 30 feet out from the main saw, bought new chain and we made wood paddles for the bucket links and got some sprockets and a motor and set up a sawdust drag system for the mill. The blower was quite problematic at times, when a few pieces of bark or small pieces, off the cuts of the log got wedged and blocked the chute for the blower system.

2 loads of #1 limestone were ordered and placed in the driveway that went North of the house and entered North of the sawmill log yard. There was a natural low area there and it had become nearly impassable. The stone, 49 ton of it was $174.93.

There is a slip for 16 yards of concrete on Nov 22nd, and I think it was used in the building where we built the pallets to make more good floor space available. It cost, $287.64., from Supreme Transit mix West of Waterloo.

From the slip for repairs to the Dodge truck, it appears that the battery hold down clamp failed and the battery shorted out and burned a group of wires on the fire wall of the engine compartment. The regulator and the battery were also replaced. The charges were $59.35.

We ran out of staples in mid November, and Fritz E. Franz delivered 5 boxes. He was the manager of the local distribution center for Duo-fast in Fort Wayne. He also oversaw the supply of repair parts we used to repair the guns.

On November 22nd. I went to The Anderson's and picked up items at the tire shop, as well nails, again and spent $142.00.

The farm lumber customers for November, Forrest Rudolph, Carroll Stout, Auburn Sanitary Landfill, Inc, Jerry McKeeman, Paul Graham, Willis Souder, Keith Culler, Jim Bailey, Ed Carper, Cecil Brown, Lloyd Schrader, Leonard Fisher. This group spent $290.00.

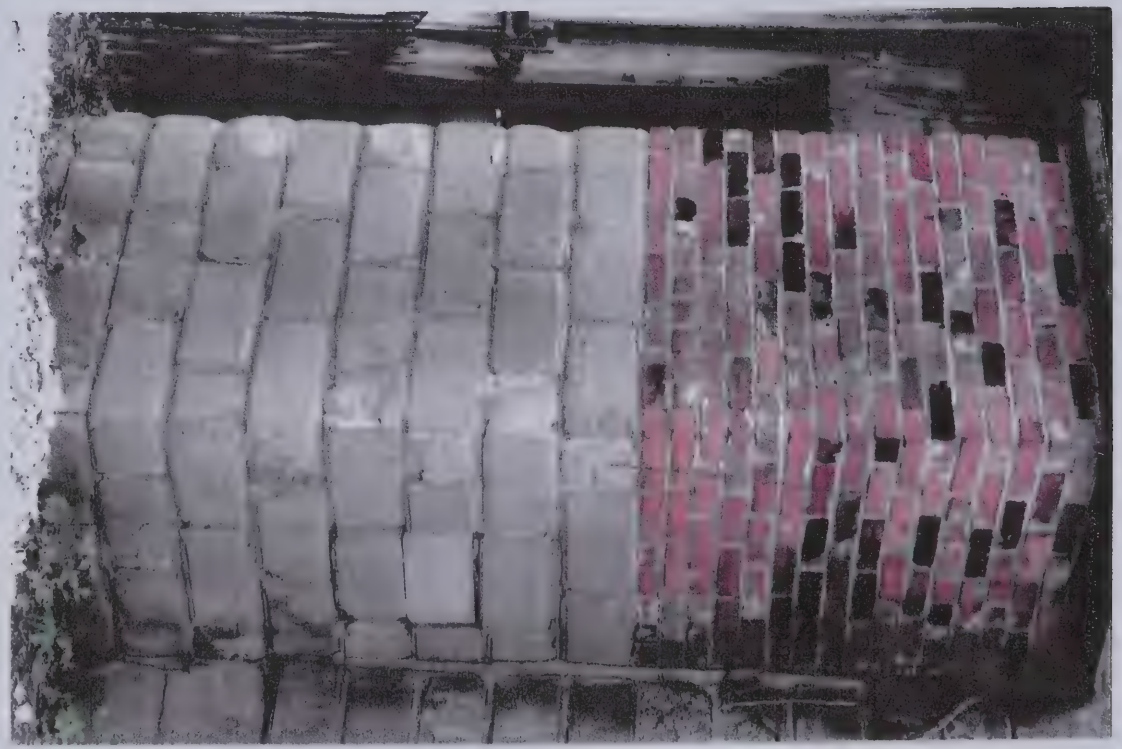
When I made the last note of who was employed in October, I neglected to note Cliff Billow, who was mainly working in edger, cut-off, and pallet making.

November pallet deliveries, Dana, 1,850 pallets, and 2,350 blocking pieces, Bohn, 850 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 125 pallets, Electric Motors, 61, and we had to tell them we could not supply them , because they were not using enough to pay for our delivery costs. New Haven, 300 pallets.

Roger Means started working full time the last week of November.

The repairs on the boiler, started in earnest, at this time, (It's Going to Freeze soon), Panic!!! We have to either drain it or get busy and put it into order again and fire it and check it out. That was done over the next week, 2 tubes changed, filled, fired and steam to 40 pounds, and then drained for winter.

Base of the boiler smoke stack, and the fire up smoke, after fire and re-piping.



December 3rd., I had gone over the stock of repair parts, for the vehicles, and equipment. There were several items that needed to be purchased, to keep up. None of our equipment was anywhere near new, and was in constant need of service and oil changes, etc. Because I was the one doing a lot of the oil changes and light bulb replacements etc, I was keeping the stock up. The purchases I made that day were wide ranging, and also included square key stock, for pulleys, gasket sealer, brake fluid, starting fluid,(Ether). The newest piece of equipment we had was the not yet 4 year old forklift. The oldest was the 1935 Highway semi-trailer. Three of the trucks were in the 1948-1954 period. I am thankful that I had that opportunity to learn when the equipment was relatively easy to work on.

We purchased another almost 2,000 feet of Ash cull logs from Crook- Miller. Harry brought them to the sawmill, most were in the range of 12" in diameter at the small end and a few were larger, but very rough, with knots or other damage.

I went to pick up a couple of electric motors from Wayne Eberhart, for $85.00. Homer had found out about them, and almost always would purchase small motors, of 1- 5 Horse Powers as he found out about them.

All of the mill chainsaw work was being done by Culbertson Sales and Service. We could not do it as cheaply ourselves as they could. So, as soon as there were items or service that needed work, they did it. The latest bill notes that the primer, muffler, and chain oil pump all needed service, The whole bill was $12.13. They were about 2-1/2 miles from the sawmill, on the way to Auburn.

The boiler was still warm, it had not yet been drained, and there were a couple of items that Homer wanted to do before complete shut down. One was to mortar in some small items, and I went to Auburn Concrete Products to pick up 2 bags of mortar and ½ yard of masonry sand. This work was in the area of the smoke pipe to the chimney, and he would do the brick work around it.
The other was to repair a couple of places where there was damage to the outside brickwork.

An electric motor needed brushes, and Bassett Electric Motor Repair, in Auburn did that work, for $16.39. The pressure gauge on the Sears air compressor, had failed , as well as the regulator, Homer went to Sears to get those parts.

About this time I have developed an allergy to the vapors from sawing White Ash and Shagbark Hickory. I would sneeze and that would make my nose run more that usual, then I would blow my nose and the cycle would start all over. I started taking medicine for it but it did hot help very much, because I was still sawing both types of wood. Sometimes, I would sneeze 6 or 7 times in a row, but I continued working and lived with it.

Six more loads of cull Ash arrived at the mill, and we continued to be glad to have them. They were hard enough to make the 2x4 runners in our pallets, and a lot of our timber was Basswood, Cottonwood, and other softer woods, which would only work for the top boards on pallets.

There was a price increase request sent to Bohn, and it was sent to their local purchasing agent, they replied with a letter, noting that we were to contact their main headquarters purchasing agent in Detroit, not in Butler. We complied and they sent a new purchase order that was good through July 31 of 1970, with the new prices agreed to. The increase was in the range of 10 to 12 cents per pallet . Their pallets were all of the block type, that would accept 4-way entry.

Homer made agreements to purchase timber from Paul Easley, and Harold Surface, the Easely patch was small and the other larger.

We are in The Christmas season, and Warren and Roger have become fast friends, and for their break they went to Florida, and they sent a card, saying, "We are ready to go back to work, we are running out of money." They also noted that they had a good time.

Another small timber purchase from, Ed Wade, paid in full, $210. the current Electric bill is $35,24, slowly creeping up. There was an order for 300 saw bits and they came from Ray E. McHugh Co. in Lansing. They are 19 cents a piece. The Continental engine in the original mill just received new spark plugs, so we are not completely in the new mill yet. Another load of Ash culls from Hicksville on December 29th. Homer made agreement to purchase imber from DeWayne Baker, who lived South of the railroad on Co. Road 45.

The sawmill cash flow was much more stable at the end of December than it had been for some time. The financial picture was tough for a while after the fire, and is much better now.

Farm lumber for December is, Caldwell Backhoe Service, some heavy plank material, Howard Jolly, 19 gate boards, James Ferguson, gate boards,Robert Ridge, gate boards, Verlin Johnson, heavy timbers, Glen Newcomer, 1,448' of sawing and hauling, Ed Carper, some 1" lumber, these amount to $135.00.

The December pallet deliveries were, Dana, 2,550 pallets, and 2,000 blocking pieces, Bohn, 400 pallets, and 1,000 blocks, Crane-Edumnd, 275 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets. The largest customer, Dana, received 29,891 pallets, and 30,925 blocking pieces. A note about the pallet that was most used, the PE-1405, when we started making that pallet, in 1962 we supplied 500 pieces, in 1969, that number was, 13,234 pieces.

It has been a good year, in spite of the setback of the fire loss of the steam mill, and we are moving forward with anticipation to 1970 and new challenges and gains. We have a good crew of workers, that are always on time and ready to get into the mode of the day, whether it is cutting parts for pallets, making pallets, cutting the trees, cleaning up, or anything else they are asked to do. For my part, I like what I was learning, about trees, being able to determine what the wood would be like inside of a log, because of the experience I had already gained.

The operation of the equipment, the repair work, welding, use of a cutting torch, ways to make more efficient use of time are all valuable and the learning never stops. The experience of the steam operation, will always be a memorable time. I thought at the time, that we would be able to saw with steam again, considering that Homer was purchasing more equipment for that purpose.

The truck that pulls the 20' trailer, is due for insurance again January 2nd, and the cost is $85.80 for the next 6 months.

The fan for the wood stove in the pallet building is a large blower fan from a heating system in a house, that would have been on a stoker fired coal furnace. It was metal box, about a 3' cube in size with a filter on it originally. We were not using the filter, because of the constant dust in the air. The motor had stopped working, and the new motor came from Western Auto Store, for a cost of, $25.45. The stove, was directly connected to the blower by a sheet metal housing that Homer had made. This did distribute a little air around the immediate area, but the building was large and there were lots of places for air to get in. The most use the stove got was placing the staple guns relatively close to the stove and letting them warm up. The other use was for the people working in the area to get their hands warm from the stove. The best thing about being in the building in the winter was there were no large wind gusts, except when the doors were open. It must have been quite cold that day, because there was also a battery purchased for the forklift. Cold weather is always a test. The battery cost, $21.37.

Homer had been in contact with the management at Crook-Miller for quite some time, and they had made an agreement that Abel's Sawmill would do some of their sawing, to their specifications for a while, I think they were working on their sawmill and needed someone to saw their handle stock planks so they could continue to operate. Our sawmill would saw their logs for $40.00 per 1,000 bd. ft. Harry would be hauling the logs and the lumber, and they would pay him for the hauling. This began in late December, and went on for a while. The load slip I found in January, was 2,235' and our pay was, $90. The sawdust drag parts were assembled, and the blower was removed and a new 3 HP motor was purchased to run the drag chain. The 3-HP motor was bought at Nussbaum Electric, for $115.32.

The forklift was having trouble getting around in the log yard, and Homer decided to have Calcium Chloride put in the drive wheels, at a cost of $23.00. It did help quite a lot, as it put more weight on the driving wheels, on the ice and snow.

We still do not have the boiler building completely closed up, the roof is on, but the sides are still open. This was remedied with the purchase of 35 sheets of the 1/2" black insulation board that was purchased on January 9th. We were installing it in the next week. It would be all the siding it would get until Spring.

Over the next several weeks, we would saw quite a lot of lumber for Hicksville, both Ash and Hard Maple.

1970

I came across something that I had no idea Homer had done. There is a copy of a letter that he sent to Crook-Miller, on 1-12-1970. I made a copy of it and it will be the next page. It is a little faint but I think it is readable.

What I did know was, Homer wanted to purchase the steam operated "Exciter", that could generate electricity, that they had and was powered by a steam engine and the one of two boilers they had. The exciter was generating 3-Phase power, with the use of a large compound engine, meaning that it used both sides of the piston as power strokes. The boiler was also made by Bass Foundry and Machine in Fort Wayne, and was much larger that ours, at 20' long and 6' in diameter, with 72 tubes.

I personally believe Homer thought he had the time and could move those pieces of equipment, but I think he was stepping over a large boundary, of more than he could handle.

Wow!
I did not remember this
Ga.

Auburn, Ind.
Jan 12, 1970

Cook Mill Co.
Hicksville O.

Gen: We would like to make a deal whereby we could obtain the Power-plant equipment you have quit using — Boilers · Steam Engine + Generator + accessories — in conjunction with a contract to haul your scrap, slabs, edgings + sawdust.

We would agree to haul this scrap - Put a truck under sawdust, one under small scrap conveyor, set a truck to load the skids of edgings + slabs (Slabs + we return the pallets.

We could do this for the boiler room equipment plus $5,000.00 for 1 yr contract, payment quarterly first payment to be boiler room equipment, bal. cash.

If we didn't haul the sawdust, we would still hold to old offer - We would pay $500.00 and remove edgings + slab, etc for 1 yr.

Sincerely

Homer [illegible], Pres.
[illegible], Secy.

There have been 3 days that have had record low temperatures since the first of the month, going back to 1948. These temps were in the minus 13 to 18 degree range.

On January 14th. We finally got a notice that we would get a refund on the boiler and maintenance insurance policy we had canceled in March last year, after the fire. There was a check for $25 in premium return.

One of the chainsaws needed a new chain, bar, sprocket and clutch drum, at a cost of $60.00.

The standing order, paperwork for pallets for Bohn, finally came and is good until July 31, 1970. All of the price increases were agreed to, and we were all good with their management again. These prices included some blocking type parts as well. The ones that were of the most interest to the mill were, two sizes of 3x3"x37 and 48". These were quick to be able to produce and could be quite profitable. It does not seem like much, but these were 30 and 41 cents each, respectively. We were delivering them in lots of 500 at a time. The reason they were profitable, was that there was not nearly as much lost sawdust making them as there was cutting 1/2" material for the tops of pallets.

The timber tracts of the 2 brothers, Ralph and Oscar Noel, properties Southwest of Garrett, was being cut at this time, and there was a lot of high quality Red and White Oak there. When we did not sell the better grades of Oak, we would stockpile if for the special farm orders that came in . It would keep on the log yard for up to a year, and we usually had a call for Oak lumber before that time. Many of the farmers that we supplied lumber to, still had cattle and needed gate and fence lumber.

We were still custom sawing 2 or 3 loads of Hard Maple, every 2 weeks, from Hicksville, for their handle making operation. The average load of logs produced 1,600 board feet per load, or over $70.00 for the sawmill.

We were using electric ignition and fan. No. 2 fuel oil heaters in the building where we made pallets, in the winter as well as the wood fired stove. The heaters were helping to heat the staple guns, so they would work correctly. One of the heaters, needed repairs, to the ignition system, as it was an electrode arc system that lit the fuel. The repair cost $11.59, and Culbertson Sales and Svc, was the repair company.

Homer went to the Alvin Jones farm auction, and spent $25.75. The items were all small amounts, the largest being a buzz saw at $7.00, most were $1.00 purchases.

Roger Means, is now working on the DeKalb school work program, second semester like Warren Carnahan. Mornings, in school and afternoon at the sawmill. His position was for, pallet making, cut-off saw, and some edger work.

The new mill had been working with a minimum of electric lights , and now it is going to get a larger electric service. There is a slip for 250" of 1/0 size Aluminum electric wire to be installed to the mill. There has been a line, but it was a smaller gauge wire and would not handle the load.

It seems, there has not been enough Anti-freeze in some of the equipment, but nothing has frozen and broken yet. I say this because, 6 gallon of permanent anti-freeze was picked up at the Farm Bureau Co.

With supervision, I am starting to learn the process of writing payroll, and that requires paying close attention to many details, it is really easy to make mistakes, and early on I did make some. There are charts to look at and math to do, At this time all of the math was done on paper and re-checked, before writing a check.

The January farm lumber is as follows, Sam Eberly, Oak lumber, Kenneth Koeppe, 1x5's and 2x4's, 16' long, Gene Wilson, 6-2x10x14' and 16', these were used as separation stall material in his dairy barn. Paul Snyder, 500' of Oak, 1-1/4" thick, and 12-4x4x16'. All of these were $150.00 total.

The pallet production, Dana, 2,250 pallets, and 3,150 blocking pieces, Bohn, 550 pallets, and 1,000 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 225 pallets, New Haven, 400 pallets, Electric motors, They are picking up their pallets, and that works for us, for the whole year, they got 511 pallets.

February 3rd, G'Nell made a note on the calendar, that the high temperature for the day was 5 degrees above zero. BRRR!!!!

We finally have enough cash flow, to order 20 boxes of staples and other supplies, and not have to worry about the payment, when it's due, which is really nice.

The Sugar Maple and White Ash, custom sawing for Crook-Miller, is still going strong, another $300.00 came from custom sawing their logs. There is another slip that says, Bill of Sale, from Frick Lumber Co. We bought 5,800' of Maple, both soft and hard, Red Oak, and Basswood logs.

The electric bill made a new plateau, this month, at $40.90. The green 1962 Dodge D-500 truck is now registered as owned by the Corporation.

The farm lumber sold in February was, Harvey Rennecker, Russell Myers, Adrain Jump, Arthur Bailey, Chauncey Ringler, Ed Schutt, the total was, $60.50, from six people.

The February pallets, Dana, 2,750 pallets, 2,975 blocking pieces, Bohn, 1,000 pallets, 1,000 blocking pieces, Crane- Edmund, 100 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets.

Our costs are rising, so there was another price increase request on 3-5-1970, for Dana, The new price for material, is, PE-1402- $3.50, 1403-$2.50, 1404-$1.40, 1405-$1.50, 1405-A .70, 1406-$2.35, 1407-$.90, 1414-$.30, 1415-$.16, 1422-$.18. The new prices, were okayed, by the purchasing agent, E. A. Miller, to be effective on April 1, 1970.

The forklift, received the first leak in one of the fluid filled rear tires, and the charge for repair was $14.00.

January3rd, through March 10th, the sawmill has paid out $300.00 for cull Ash logs from Hicksville.

The order for saw bits, files, red lumber crayons, Alligator belt lacing, came to $97.39, from Ray E. Mchugh Co. in Lansing. The saw bits, are now costing $.1938 per tooth.

Homer bid on some tracts of timber, and was over bid by another buyer from another company. Most of the timber he purchased was from word of mouth, of someone recommending him.

The timber tracts that are being cut at this time are, Harold Gengnagel, Stanley Garman, Eckert-Pattee, Noel, Yarde-Gorrell.

Homer talked to a representative of the Hydrotex Co. ( a Pioneer Texas Co.) about a fuel additive, "Essential lube", that would help the Hercules engine stay lubricated and give it a boost of power. The 55 gallon barrel arrived in March, the additive cost, $200.36, and the shipping cost was, $12.26.

The March, farm lumber, John Haynes, gate lumber, $87.00, Ray Keller, fence lumber, $17.75, Cecil Brown, fence lumber, $27.50, Adolph Schiffli, $30.00 worth of Oak lumber, Robert Jennings, sawing of Oak logs only, $22.93, Russell Ray, 2- Elm plank, $7.50, Jerry Myers, sawing his logs, $52.50, Wallace Miles, Red Elm boards, safe for use for gates away from moisture, $9.00, Franklin Jordan, gate lumber, $10.00, Leonard Fisher, gate lumber, $36.00. About $400.00, sold. As has been noted in the previous several months, there was a small market for hardwood lumber by the farmers, and some others. They were scattered all over the county.

Pallet deliveries for March, Dana, 2,650 pallets, and 825 blocking pieces, Bohn, 1,100 pallets, (nice), Crane-Edmund, 225 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets. Dana is about 80% of our income, this month.

Homer had been watching the Dodge truck and did a compression check on it, and determined it needed to be overhauled. There were other signs too. He took it to Howard Carper to have the work done, because he was regarded by many, as a very good mechanic. This work was his 2nd. job, he had a full time job elsewhere. The list of the work, indicates that Homer told him to go over the whole vehicle and fix what needed to be done. Wheel bearings and seals, brake check and muffler work were done as well as the engine repair. The total came to, $421.67, $192 was the labor.

The Pine for the Dana sticks, would usually come from 1x10"- or 12" boards, but sometimes it had to be from 1x8" boards, because their stock was used up.
That was the case on April 2nd, and it took 43 boards in the 8", to make the 1,000 pieces we needed.

There was a constant need for service parts for the equipment we were using. Allison Corp, slips continue to be in the paperwork.

The fuel tanks, were filled, truck tank, 280 gallon, tank at the original mill, 280 gallon, new mill tank, 192 gallon.

Homer went to the Earl Farrington farm auction, and purchased another truck, a 1950 Chevy, with a 12' dump bed on it. We now have 2 dump trucks, and that makes it much better, now we have an extra truck available, for pallet delivery. It cost $540.00 and did not have a lot of miles on it. It had been re-painted in a purple color and did not have a shine anymore, but there was no rust on it.

I wrote all of the checks for the pay period for the third week of April, and it was checked and I did not make any mistakes. It is nice to have a part in the inner workings of the Corporation, and the decision making processes. But that comes with more involvement in the work and being involved in the extra's. Things like taking care of the logyard in the winter, before going home, someone needs to level the area, so it is navigable the next day. Helping make the schedule, of who works where, for the next days work, also became part of the job. I dug in, and at the cost of some family time, I missed.

Log quality drawings.

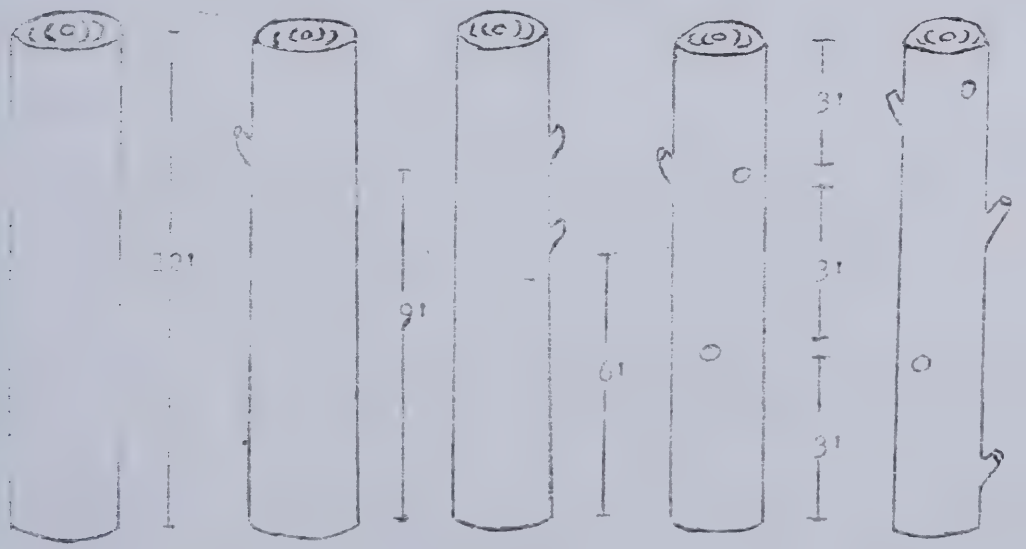
Log Grades

Prime - Practically (90 percent) surface clear on three visible faces, (A face is any one-quarter of the surface of a log). Must be 16 inches or more in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 1 - At least three-fourths (75 percent) of the log length on the three visible faces must be surface clear in one section. Must be at least 14 inches in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 2 - At least one-half (50 percent) of the log length must be surface clear on the three visible faces in two sections, neither of which can be less than three feet long. Must be at least 10 inches in diameter inside bark at the small end.

No. 3 - Will not meet No. 2 specifications.




| Prime | No. 1 | No. 2 | No. 2 | No. 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16" or Larger | 14" and Larger | 10" and Larger | | |
| 90% Clear | 75% Clear | 50% Clear | | |

Fig. 1 - Log quality depends on log size, and the number and location of surface defects.

April pallet production, 2,250 pallets, 1,500 blocking pieces, Bohn, 750 pallets and 500-3x3x48", Crane-Edmund, 325 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets. Farm lumber for April, 2 customers, Don Gallager, sawing lumber, Howard Troyer, potato crate slats, $12.50, which we made 14' long, and he cut them to length.

We are continuing to receive cull logs from Hicksville, and there were 5 loads, for $275. A lot of these were 10-12" in diameter, and 8'-16' in length. A lot of them went directly into 3x3", 3x4", or 4x4" pieces to be cut into 4" long blocks, for the 4-way entry block pallets we were making.

I got to make a trip to The Anderson's, and pick up 50 pound of 8d nails and 2 fifty-five gallon drums of 10-W-30 motor oil, on May 9th. The cost for all was $119.76. I have been back to Maumee, 2 or three times since the encounter with patrolman Till, with no problems.

There is a newspaper in the stack, from May 16, 1970, it has a couple of interesting items on the front page.
There was a daily prayer on the left 1st column, near the bottom, and this was standard at that time. The county had been free from a traffic accident death, for 28 days at the time.

Homer will purchase timber from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson, which is just off of Co.Rd. 37. This is West of the sawmill, and there are 249 trees in a 34 acre tract, Homer guaranteed $3,500 @ $50 per 1,000 feet. If I remember, the trees were mostly nice White Oak. There was a set payment plan of 5 payments for the timber. The agreement was made on May 22nd, 1970, with removal to be finished by, August 1971.

The hydraulic pump went out on the backhoe tractor, the pump was $13.49 and Homer installed it.

Farm lumber has been fairly steady for several months. Here is the group from May, Edward Carper, gate material, Frazer Farm Equipment, 100-2x2x6', 25-1x6x6', 60 lineal feet of 1x5" Oak, Larry Ehlers, 1x5"x8', J.W. Miller, gate lumber, Lester Brown, 3"x10" plank, Terry Hartman, 219 bd, ft. lumber, Bruce Provines, sawing his logs, Arthur Stevenson, Oak lumber, $235.00 total spent.

The pallet deliveries for May were, Dana, 3,100 pallets, we got behind during the month, and there were several deliveries 2 and 3 days in a row to Dana, and one day when there were 2 trips for the day. Bohn, received 500 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 95 pallets, New haven, 200 pallets.

It is June 3rd., and Homer is still in contact with William Thompson, after the Hercules purchase, and has now purchased a sawmill that Mr. Thompson had, for $250.00. I did not remember this transaction, and do not know anything about the mill or the parts of it.

The pallet work is going well, and I do not have a lot of information. Just the normal day to day operation. There were some small parts transactions, and we are still purchasing the cull logs from Hicksville. Homer was at Culbertson's, having a few small repairs done to a saw, and he purchased a used saw, to use on the log yard to cut logs to length, for $100.00. It was a McCollough- 250.

The new mill is now hooked up to 2- 275-300 gallon tanks, because the Hercules is in full operation now. One tank needed 254 gallon and the other, 264 gallon . The truck tank needed 220 gallon. The Hercules, used a lot of fuel, but it is very productive to have enough power to work with.

The next page will start with the Hercules needing repairs. I did not have the information in my stack, when I typed about the Hercules. Their headquarters is in Canton, Ohio. The parts were going to come from their warehouse in Chicago. Homer had all of the original paperwork for the engine, and he got a phone number and called the Canton office, on June 15th, and the Chicago office received the order on the 17th,. This engine had been made to U.S. Government specs, and the parts were specific to this engine. The ship date was, 6-22-1970. There were two heads on this engine, of 3 cylinders each. And the head gaskets were different, by one digit, the price was the same, at, $8.14. A manifold gasket set, $5.31, 2- oil pan gaskets, $.67, one piston, $57.23, a set of rings,$47.10. Six exhaust valves, at 19.46 each. The valve springs were outer and inner, inner smaller, $1.47 each, outer larger,$3.09ea. The total, $271.38.

Homer did all of the repair work on the engine, and it went well. He had been repairing this type of engines on a smaller scale since the 1940's. All of his tractor and some of his cars had been repaired like this.

The engine when done, ran the best it had since we got it. Of coarse, we were probably using it for the first time, since the Federal Government owned it. It was a real work horse, running really smooth, and I really enjoyed hearing it's throaty rumble, when it was under load.

About the same time, Homer had received a sales brochure, from Tom Norton Machinery, in Petersburg, Virginia. They had all kind of equipment, from sawmills, and associated items, to shafting, pulleys, and guess what. They also carried a lot of good usable Steam equipment. Homer ordered several items from them, by phone. The first item on the list is, one lot of steam engine parts, and oilers. This would have had drip oilers, and belt driven oilers to lubricate the large steam engines. I think there was also a replacement, spring loaded Fly Ball governor. There was also saw teeth, a couple of small flat belt pulleys, and some shaft collars. There was also a 32 tooth insert tooth saw, which would have been to replace the burned top saw for the top saw rig, that was burned. The cast iron rig was not damaged in the fire, but would have had to have new babbit bearings poured.

At this time, there was still some thought of re-building the burned engine. The castings were not damaged in the fire, only the small outside parts, mostly made of steel and brass. It would have been a major task, getting everything in the exact position, and then pouring all new babbit bearings. It would have required 3-4 large rose-bud torch heads working together, to heat the castings to the temperatures so the babbit would flow. There would have been several people involved as well. Looking back, now 40 plus years later, if Homer had been able to have time, and his health had stayed, I think he would have done it.

There was another piece of paperwork, that did not get in the proper place. It concerned, Wild Cherry Park in St. Joe, Indiana. Willard Hurni, was instrumental, and the only person with a vision for this park. He single-handedly worked at removing all of the un-desirable trees and bushes, weeds and other things then started with his dream of a park for the little town. After he had gotten to the point of having the ground leveled and a bridge across the Bear Creek, so both sides of the park were connected, he came to Homer, desiring him to saw some of the logs, from the cleared land, to make a pavilion for the park. He had Locust and Maple logs, and whatever more he needed, Homer would cut from our logs. We sawed the material and Willard got some other people to help him build the pavilion. The park was now very usable and had a driveway and parking area. In less than 2 years, there was a very windy storm and it took the pavilion down. He built another one a year later.

As we end June, the Hercules has a sound that indicates that there are some exhaust valves that are burned, and we can hear it when in a full load, and there is a head gasket leak developing. Homer has been in contact with the Hercules Manufacturing Co., and they still have parts for the engine. The valves are $20.00 a piece, which Homer thought was highway robbery. He also had to get new head gaskets and some other small parts. The bill was $275.00. He took the heads to Cecil, Ohio, to Hart's Auto parts to have them milled, to make sure they were true again, as well as re-surfacing the valves. The bill from Hart's was $91.25. Homer only replaced 4 valves, the rest were still okay. So we are back to using the original Belsaw mill for a while. Exciting ?, to go from large sawmill to very small again.

The Garman timber tract is being cut at this time, and so far 39,823' have been cut and hauled. There were only 2 farm lumber sales in June, Gary Botteran, sawing his logs, and Ed Seiler, 92 gate boards, with a total of $137.95 for the two jobs.

June pallets delivered, Dana, 2,875 pallets, and 2,325 blocking pieces, Bohn, 500 pallets and 1,000 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 215, New Haven, 125 pallets.

Farm lumber, John Haynes, 3- plank, 4- small orders, for Harry Hefty, Ed Carper, H. Jump, Phylis Harter, Electric Motors, a 4' long, 8"x8" piece of Oak, Ed Seiler, gate boards, Mildred Stephenson, barn stall 2" thick plank, Robert Ridge, gate lumber, John Haynes, 2" structural building material, Robert Surfus, 2-plank, Ralph Sechler and Son, 24-4x4"x12' for pickle factory. $240 of material.

Clayton Mitchner, has a tract of timber that he owns that he wants to sell to Homer. Homer did an estimate of the timber, and came up with approximately (9,000) feet of scale and offered to pay $275.00 for it. Based on the amount he was going to pay, I think it was all pallet material, only.

Levi Pfister also sold Oak logs to the mill in July, from the Glen Oaks nursing home property. He was operating a tree removal service at the time.

Homer made a call to Lansing, to Ray E. McHugh Co. and ordered, 2 dozen Dixon soft red lumber crayons, 6-10" Hoe Co., mill files, 6-10" Atkins mill files, (probably to check how well each would hold up under our use.), chainsaw files, of two manufacturers, for the same reason, Saw teeth, Alligator belt lacing, and on back order a full box of the Alligator 27-L style.

Howard W. Shilling has made an agreement to sell timber to Abel's Sawmill, on July 9th. All species of timber, 12" and over, in woods, also take all we can use in the area East of the Muck ground. To be removed before Fall 1971, don't haul when excessively wet. No Walnut. Will pay at $45.00 per 1,000 feet straight through.

Richard Crow, sold timber to the mill in May 1970, as well, and it has been being cut and hauled. To date, there has been 43,555 feet harvested, paying him $2,000.00.

There is a notice from Bohn, stating that the purchase order that was to end on July 31st, 1970 has been extended to 7-31-1971. that is good news for our sawmill and pallet making process.

I do not show any farm lumber for July. The Pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,100 pallets, 2,200 blocking pieces, Bohn, 680 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 120 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets.

One of the things that I have not mentioned recently is, is is very possible for farmers to appear with large trucks and wagons and want to get a load of sawdust for bedding for their animals, except for horses. Walnut sawdust will affect horses leg joints, making them painful. Most of these people wanting sawdust wanted us to load it with the loader on the backhoe tractor. We did if we could spare the time. Some would actually load their own with a large scoop shovel, but that was rare. Either my father or myself would load if we were there to do it.

When I was going to load, I would tell the edger man that I was going to make a lot of cuts quickly, which would then be stacked and he could rip them to size with the edger while I was loading sawdust. The edger and the cut-off operations were very time consuming, and could not handle all that could be sawed with the mill. The mill and sawyer literally could have sawed 50% more than we normally did, but there was no place to put the lumber, before edging it.

Just before we stopped for the engine repairs, the fuel tanks were filled and the 2 that served the Hercules, required 509 gallons to fill, the truck tank, only 180 gallons. The supply of belt dressing, a substance to make the belts adhere to the pulleys better, ran low and Homer went to Waterloo, and stopped a Dunn Brothers, the International tractor shop, and picked up 2- 1 quart cans of the material. The cans had a very small plastic spout that could release from a few drops to a squirt of dressing at a time. It took about 30 seconds from the time it was applied until you could hear a crackling sound as the material became sticky. The reason I mention this is, the Hercules had enough power to overrun the pulleys ability to carry the power to the mill shaft, when under load conditions.

The Hercules engine rebuild has been completed and it runs smoothly and there are no leaks or engine noises that should not be there. It was nice to be back in the new mill again, it feels like home again.

The Duo-fast service man, Fritz Franz, stopped by to deliver 2 boxes of nails for the air-powered gun, and to check on how the nailing and stapling guns are working. Most of our conversations with him were by telephone now, so it was nice to talk to him in person.

There is a slip stating that more roofing was purchased for the present mill building, meaning that the 1st of 3 extensions is taking place. The building is now 56 feet long, with a 46' section over the engine to the North and West of the actual mill. That will be nice, we do not have enough room to put all of the lumber we make.

The extra building will make it possible to add 2- tracks and carts to carry the lumber out to where it can be lifted with a forklift, to carry it to the pallet making building., and to stock it outside if necessary. Also, we will have room to put special skids, for the edgings from the edger to be placed on and later, when full, to be taken outside, to be used as fire wood in the pallet making area stove or emptied.

The August farm lumber was, John Haynes, framing for a addition to a building, 1,973 bd. ft. of lumber, Maurice Terry, gate lumber, Don & Glen bulldozing, heavy timber, and random width, boards 6' long, Dorcie Likens, 4x4" posts, Roger Stafford, 2" material, Arthur Wilks, 1x10and 1x12x13', Howard Grimm, Oak fence lumber, Vic Dunn, fence lumber, Russell Myers, 40-2x10x10' and 12', Lester Rennecker, 2x4's. The total was $490.00 for this month.

Top, the tools for measuring, scaling, and marking logs to length. L to R, blue marking crayon, log scale and 4' rule. Orange paint stick, used for wet wood. Red marking crayon.

Bottom, all home-made. Hand chisel for removing old mortar from bricks and cement blocks, used for the bricks from the Hoagland boiler. Stencil brush, Homer made the grind wheel piece to hone the valve seats of the Hercules engine, with the metal lathe. Next the truck spring steel 5/8"x 1-1/4" countersink for the Tokheim gas pump bases. And last, the 1 gallon paint stir tool.

On August 18, 1970, the first of the two woods Ralph and Harry were cutting, owned by Richard Crow was finished. There was 34,119 feet of timber cut in that woods, and Ralph and Harry would be moving on to the other woods.

The next week, Homer asked me to go along with him to the Waterson woods. There was one tree left to cut, and it leaned over a fence that he wanted to save. Homer loaded up the International forklift, and asked me to go along with him to help. When we get to the location, I see a very large White Oak tree. It was probably nearly 4' in diameter. There were 2 low limbs, each about 14-16" in diameter, that are possible to use to help lift up and help tilt the tree. My job was to wait until about ½ of the cut had been made, then lift with the top of the mast and follow with tilting forward with the mast as the tree began to need more help to fall. We studied the tree and determined that the limb that was at 90 degrees to the fence would be the one to use. Homer cut the notch on the far side of the tree, and I got positioned. He then started making the cut on my side, and he stopped and had me start to apply pressure to lift the tree. He would cut a little and motion for me to tilt and raise some more. All went well until he had about 1" yet to cut and he pulled his saw and I raised and tilted some more. What we did not account for properly, was, that the tree was a little bit heavy to my left and as I raised and tilted, it suddenly shifted and the forklift lost contact with the limb. The next 3-4 seconds became decision time for me. I jumped off the forklift when the tree was more than ½ way to my position. In the next 6 seconds, the noise stopped and I was still alive, GOD"s provision, it was not my time to go yet. As soon as it got quiet, Homer called out to me, "Are you okay?" I answered, "Yes".

The forklift had taken a direct hit from the limb I had been pushing on, and the 2" tubing roll cage was crushed clear down to the steering wheel and the steering wheel was bent. The front of the forklift had tilted, with the front end in the air and the radiator and hood were smashed as well. What you don't know is, that the front of the forklift had a ballast box on the front that was 30" wide by 20 the other way, and 24" deep and built in an oval in front and was flat along the front of the radiator. The box did not have solid concrete of metal inside, it was full of mixed loose metal pieces. There were 6"x12"x3/4" thick pads from a small dozer, a set of heavy truck springs, and a brake drum from a large truck in the box. All of this metal went airborn, when the tree hit the forklift. Again, God's protection, not one piece of that metal touched me.

I do not remember how the forklift got home, but it was not that day. When it did, Homer started on the process of removing the hood and radiator. He cut the roll over cage in several places and straightened others, then re-welded it back together. He ordered a new radiator and straightened the hood sections, and we purchased some yellow paint that matched the tractor and re-painted it. It took about 2 weeks, but it was soon back in service again. He went and fixed the fence that he had intended to save and life went on. I don't think we ever talked about it again.

The August pallet totals, Dana, 2,400 pallets, and 1,730 blocking pieces, 500 pallets, and 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 170 pallets, New Haven, 250 pallets, there is no list of farm lumber.

September begins with a trip to Clark's Welding Service in North Waterloo, Indiana, Homer had a press job he needed done, and Delbert Clark had a press to do it. It only cost $5.00 but was needed . The new mill was having problems with the main shaft bearings, and I made a trip to Transmission and Fluid Equipment and purchased the new bearings, for $41.20. The shaft size was 2-7/16 inch diameter. At that time they were located at the intersection of roads 14 and West Jefferson St, in Fort Wayne.

The sawmill glove situation, changed recently, as Homer made contact with one of the employees of the Electric Motors and Specialties Co. and he had foundry grade, heavy gloves he was selling after they used but not worn out, he was doing this on the side, as he was the clean-up person in the plant at that time. Homer was getting them for 50 cents a pair. They were packaged in groups of one dozen pair, and Homer was buying 4-6 dozen at a time. They were warmer than what we had been using. Some also had some oil residue on them, but it did not stop us from using them.

September 1970, begins with Homer giving me the figures for a price increase for Crane-Edmund, and asking me to write out the request paperwork. I had not done that before, and there was also a new pallet that they wanted a price for. The new pallet was to be 29" square, and have 3-runners, 4, one half inch x 3" boards on top and 2 boards 5/8" x 3" on the bottom. We were going to price the new one at $1.10 per pallet, and initially there were to be 6 sample pieces made. The samples were to be delivered by September 15th.

We are still selling White Ash to Crook Miller, 2loads and they paid, $260.00. The Continental engine in the original mill needed a governor, contact points, condensor, and a starter spring, for $68.60. The trailer we haul the backhoe and forklift on is needing a new tire, at $43.06.

I get to go to Burtzner and Wilhelm Gravel on Co. Rd. 27, North of U.S. 6. I will be picking up a load of # 2 washed stone for the mill driveway. The load was 3.8 tons on the 1950 Chevy dump truck. I leave and am going to go back by the way of Interstate 69. I start on the ramp to get on 69, and it is up hill. By the time I get to the South bound lanes, I am only going 40 mile per hour. The truck has a 6 cylinder engine, 235 CID and that is all it will do with a load on it.

We received notice from all three of our suppliers of saw teeth and other saws, that there will be a 6% increase in prices of all saw related materials. To be effective on September 25th.

There is a slip for copper tubing, and it will be used to add another fuel tank to the Hercules fuel system. The tubing will tie two of the tanks together.

The new mill saws were tensioned and I was the one to take them to Indianapolis. While there, I picked up saw teeth as well. The teeth were $.1744 per tooth. And the hammering of 2 saws was, $50.

The income for the month of September was $6,600.00, a very good month.

The farm lumber for the month was, McCullough Service, 2 loading plank, 3x12x14', Wayne Heffley, 10-3x8x16', Lynn Fuller, 1x4's, and 2x4's, Lloyd Schrader, gate lumber, and enough 1" lumber to cover, 14x18', Neil Prentice, 2" lumber 16' long, Richard Myers, lumber for a 3-sided stall, Neil Prentice, another order, lumber to cover 6x14', Sechler's Pickles, 25-4x4x12', Ed Carper, gate boards. The total was $440.00, for the farm lumber. We purchased $433.49 worth of logs from Robert Faulkner in September. There was a purchase of logs from Erwin Selke, as well.

The pallet production was, Dana, 2,850 pallets, and 1,825 blocking pieces, on Thursday the 17th, we delivered 2 loads to Dana, with 7 different itemstotal. Dana also has made a change in the PE-1403, and some are built slightly different and are now painted with a red runner . Bohn, 300 pallets, and 500 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 306 pallets, No pallets to New Haven this month. It has been a good month.

now

The building for the new mill is completed, it is 90' long, and the main run is 16' wide, and the Hercules and storage area is 16' wide and adjoining the 90' section, it is 52' long. There are 2 sets of track with low carts on them that run the last 30' of the long section. The track came with the Wildt sawmill, and the wheeled carts as well. There was a small section of the 90 foot building that was just a 12 foot wide shed type roof, and this is where the track ended, under this roof.

The shed type roof was a wind tunnel, and Homer was looking for a garage door, 16' or 18' long. He did not have to wait very long, there was one advertised in the newspaper, soon after he needed it. It came from Forrest Landes, and cost $25.00. All the hardware came with it and it was installed in the next 2 weeks. It cut off the wind and made the loaded carts less likely to have snow later that winter.

Our Workmen's Compensation, Assigned Risk,Statesman Ins. Co, insurance plan will change as of 11-23-1970. We will be with Insurance Co. of North America now. This is determined by the state Workmen's compensation board.

One of the two forklifts, needed new tires, and they were purchased at Tractor Supply Co. The cost for 2- 12.4x38" tires was $133.98. While Homer was at TSC, he had ordered a new Mercury yard light complete, for $34.88, and it was on back order. It came in on the 22nd of October, and he went to get it.

The property tax for the Fall ½ was $110.00 for the farm. It was under the Abel's Sawmill Inc. now.

There was another load of stone picked up, this time by Homer, from the gravel pit north of U.S. 6, at Waterloo. It was 5.3 ton this time. It cost $8.60.

The October farm lumber was, Clifford Carnahan, fence post, Charles Willen, 1x8" lumber, Hubert Bleeks, Hard Maple lumber, and 1x6x16' lumber, Maurice Terry, gate lumber, Wayne Haynes, Heavy floor lumber, 33-1-1/4x10"x16'. All of these for $230.00.

Pallet deliveries, Dana, 1,850 pallets, and 1,000 blocking pieces, Bohn, 450 pallets, 1,250 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, New Haven, 400 pallets.

There is still timber coming from the Richard Crow 2nd. Woods. The method of notes for timber purchases has changed, and it is not as easy to determine where we are cutting now. I do have a group of slips indicating the purchase of timber from Dan Schurr. We are also cutting lumber for him from the same woods, as well. He has cattle and is needing lumber. We also sawed some of our logs to make lumber for him, too.

November begins with a chainsaw needing a new clutch, sprocket, chain, and a clamp to secure the handle. Total bill was, $35,44.

We had been selling Ash to Hicksville and also buying their cull logs, and it is continuing now. The latest round of buying and selling was nearly even in costs. Crook-Miller only owed $25.68, in the last transaction.

New Haven Wire and Cable, requested a quote for 3 different new products . The first one was a 36" square pallet, with 1" material for the top and bottom, with 3 runner 2x4"s. It would also need a 5/8" board all the way around the top of the pallet, that was raised 1-5/8" above the pallet slats. The second was, to be 33" square, with 1" top. The third was to be our standard 34" square Dana pallet, PE-1405. # 1 price quote, $2.65, #2 price quote, $2.00, #3, $1.75. The request date for delivery of samples was 11-18-1970. We delivered the samples on that date and 100 pallets of their regular size.

Another 5.6 ton of #2 pit stone to stabilize the driveway, was picked up on 11-18-1970. $9.14.

The sawmill and the house electric were separated a bout 3 months ago, and I did not notice it until now. Instead of 40 dollars for electric, now the house electric is around $20.00 and the sawmill is just a little higher at the present time.

I haven't listed the fuel use for a while, and will do so now, the truck tank needed 285 gallon, and the new mill tank #1 needed 185 gallon. We did not get into the 2nd tank this time. The normal repairs for lighting on the trucks and the oil filters, and other supplies were a regular monthly thing to get.

The November farm lumber, Victor Dunn, 12' structural material, John Haynes, 21-2x6x18', Ralph Carnahan, 4-3x6x10', H.S. Lidell, a 2x10x16', Sawing for John Ramer, and sawing of Walnut and Wild Cherry "shorts", these were cut offs from a log yard in Garrett, near the Randolph St. railroad crossing. They were usually swells on the butt end of a log, and the future buyers of the logs wanted logs that were near the same size the whole length. Sometimes there were nails in the pieces too. St.Joe Camper sales, 6-4x4x8', Ed Proksa, sawing his logs for fence rails, he lived in a woods at that time. Dave Southern, 125-1x6x8' fence boards, Lester Meschberger, 3-4x6x8'. $278.00 for these orders.

November pallets, Dana, 2,250 pallets, and 325 blocking pieces, Bohn, 475 pallets, 1,750 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 50 pallets, New haven, 200 pallets plus 6 sample pieces. It is important to know that we lost some of the blocking pieces we had been making for Dana to other bidders. We also had some loss of pallets to Crane-Edmund due to the seasonal cycle of some of their products.

We start December with a note about the weather. Going back to 1948, December 1st 1970 was on record for the hottest day, at 67 degrees.

We have been getting logs delivered to the mill by a driver for Elvert Nichols, on a regular basis. Ralph and Harry are working on the Arthur Johnson woods. Ralph is still cutting the trees and skidding them to a landing site, where Harry loads them and delivers to the mill.

Our Dodge truck is leaking brake fluid on one of its wheels and needs a rehab. The work was done by Daily Motor Sales, the Dodge dealer in Auburn. It cost $30.19 for parts and labor.

DuWayne Goings is back to work at the mill, he has his farming work finished for the year.
The air compressor we use the most required a new pressure switch, at a cost of $21.70. The Terra-Trac forklift is still operating, but has a leak that requires some seals, which were purchased at Bearing Inc.

We received notice of the record-keeping requirements for the new Occupational Safety and Health Act. OSHA, as it is known, would become effective July, 1st.1971. More regulations, and paperwork!

Homer is working the Milt Myers woods, on the DeKalb-Allen County line, and the woods is on the Allen Co. side and just East of I-69. He is paying $45.00 per M- bd. feet, straight through. There were other people that we were getting timber from at this time, Ray Carnahan had some fence row trees, and Kenneth Coburn sold Homer 54 marked trees too.

As we approach the end of December, this is a list of our present employees, Roger Means, Homer Abel, Warren Carnahan, DuWayne Goings, George Abel, Glen Cook, G'Nell Abel, Harry and Ralph, were contractors, working for themselves.

The new sawmill is working well and is capable of producing much more than we are. If we were making just solid 3/4" or 2" lumber and not cutting it into short pieces to make pallets, we could produce 3-4 times as much lumber. The bottleneck is that we can only store so much ahead before it needs to be cut for pallets, and then we have to stop sawing logs and make pallets.

One of the things that does not take much time is sharpening the main mill saw. I can sharpen and be going again in about 10 minutes, and another 2 minutes to lubricate a few bearings.

The last day of December is a Thursday, we are all looking forward to the new year, and I am at the sawyers position in the afternoon,and have a full view of the logyard to the North. One of our trucks is parked out there with a load of logs on it. DuWayne Goings has gone out to remove the chains in preparation to unload the logs. I have been both sawing and glancing out there. DuWayne has removed 2 of the 3 chains, and as he removes the binder and last chain, by pulling it off the load, a log about 16' long and maybe 12" in diameter at the small end comes off the truck from the friction of the chain being pulled off. The log hits DuWayne in the back and takes him to the ground. His head does not get hit, but he is down and not getting up. I stop what I am sawing and go to see what the situation is. I talk to him and he says he is hurt, but I also notice that he is in Medical Shock. I ask him if he can move, and he can but not well. I realize there is some risk of a broken vertebra, but also know that if I call the ambulance, I am going to get a hearse, with a cushion and no back board. I make the decision, that I will get my car and one of the other workers to help get him in the car and take him to the hospital. We did that and I asked him where his wife and son were.

DuWayne replied that he thought they were at DeKalb High School in the theater, where a movie was showing. So after I dropped him at the hospital, I went to the school, and talked to one of the ushers inside one of the doors. The usher said, "we are about 1 minute from a reel change and you will have about 5-6 seconds to make your announcement." When the screen went black, I said, loudly enough to be sure I could be heard, "Sandy and Todd Goings, please come to any exit." Thankfully, they were there, and they came out and I told them that DuWayne was at the DeKalb Hospital. The really good news was, yes, DuWayne would need some time to recover, there was no spinal damage. This made for a somber period of time, for all of us. We were thankful he was not more seriously hurt.

The December farm lumber, Lloyd Schrader, gate boards, Gerald Kraft, 1" lumber, Frazer Farm Equipment, 10' 2x6's, Richard Freed, 2-2x10x12', Royce Gibford, one White Oak 6"x8" post, sawing of their logs, Francis Dulle, and Paul Easley, and Verlin Johnson, fence boards, Gene Wilson, cow stall lumber. $311.00 for these products.

Pallet sales, for the year, Dana, 29,134, and 20,355 blocking pieces, Bohn, 6,995 pallets, 6,600 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 1,957 pallets, New Haven, 2,475 pallets, Electric motors, 511 pallets.

# 1971

January 4, 1971, Homer is at Auburn City Hardware, picking up belt lacing strips, and he bought a whole box of the second most used variety, 27-L, for long. There were some other items, not specified.

A letter, dated 1-11-1971, came soliciting bids on 152 trees, 4-types of Oak, Soft Maple, Hickory and Ash. The tally stated that there was estimated to be 37,160 board feet of scale. The property is 2 mile North of Flint, Indiana, with an Angola address. Flint is North of U.S.20, and west of Angola. The owner was W. C. Warring. Homer went and scouted the woods and put in a bid of $1,500. Homer got the contract, and did not start the job until around March 1.

There was another request for bids came in the mail on 1-13-1971, but Homer had just committed to the job at Flint, so he did not bid. The footage was almost the same as the Flint woods.

DuWayne Goings, is home with a brace and doing well. There was a extended mix-up with some of his paperwork, going to the incorrect address, and caused some minor problems, but did get corrected within a couple of weeks. He is getting compensation and will for a while.

Meanwhile, the inspector for safety, for the new OSHA program came about the middle of January, and had a number of things that he required to be corrected. They were mostly concerning electrical outlets that did not have a third wire, and places where stored items needed to be moved to make the work area's safer. We ran a third wire with green coating for the ground wire, and it looked strange but it worked. When he came back 3 weeks later, he was satisfied with what we had done.

We received a letter soliciting purchaser's for their excess lumber, from Marquette Lumber Co. in South Bend Indiana. They had semi- loads of lumber for sale in all grades, but we would have had to go pick it up ourselves. It was in lots of 8,000 to 10,000 feet per truck load.

Dave Prosser brought in a load of logs, of 1,000 feet to sell and Homer purchased them, for $60.00. There was another tract up for bid, with a Corunna address, that Homer could have bid on. There were 3 different tract, in this one, and he either did not bid or he did not get the high bid, because I do not find any record of logs from there. This would have been in Squire sawmill's back yard, and they probably bought it.

The license plates for the Green Dodge, were $100.00 for the 20,000 gross vehicle weight plate. At the time, it needed to be purchased before the end of January. It was part of the Corporation.

The farm lumber was small for January, Homer sawed 1,500 feet of lumber, for $300.00, for Elwood VanAntwerp, in Marshall, Michigan. He had to have met him in the process of doing business with the Wildt sawmill equipment pick-up process. We did not have any other connections in that area.

The pallet sales for January were, Dana, 2,700 pallets, 1,975 blocking pieces, Bohn, 850 pallets, 1,000 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 150 pallets, New Haven, 0 for the month.

Homer looked at some Walnut trees that Jim Shilling had and agreed to purchase them for pallet material. He paid $200.00.

We have been using some of the flat belting that Homer purchased from Mr. Wildt, and it is not wide enough at 12" wide, we are having slippage, and need wider belts, around 15-16" wide.

Timber sale contract Between: 172

Seller. W. C. Warring - R#1 Angola, Ind.
Buyer. Abel's Sawmill, Inc. R#1 Auburn, Ind. 46706

Part I

Location - Sec. 10 Jackson Twp. - Steuben co. Ind.

Trees to be cut. Trees marked with yellow spot on tree + stu.
Est. 37,160 + 1 walnut top log #10.00

Part II

Payment in full this date - #1500.00

To waive all claim to timber not removed by end of 1971 unless granted further extension by seller
Stay off ground when too wet.
To prevent + suppress forest fires while logging.
To repair or settle for damage to fences, ditches, crops, etc.
To not assign this agreement in whole or part.

Part III Seller agrees:

To guarantee title to timber purchased.
To grant right-of-way when fit to log.

In case of dispute during the life of this contract that cannot be settled by the contracting parties, final decision shall rest with an arbitration board of three - Each party to select one - these two to select a third to form this board. Operations cease until disagreement settled.

Signed in Duplicate at Angola, Ind.

Date
3/2/71

Buyer - Abel's Saw Mill Inc. by Homer Abel, Pres
Seller William C. Warring.

Homer has been talking to suppliers in Fort Wayne, to locate a source for more flat belting of a wider width than we are using. He got the name and the phone number for a company in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He contacted them, and they said they likely had something he could use. So bright and early on February 27 th., he left for Kenosha, with the 1967 Volkswagen Beetle, to hopefully purchase flat belting. When he came home, he had 2 large rolls of belting filling the car. It was originally used for conveyor belting, and was a 6 ply fabric, totally encased in a rubber coating, that had been made while the rubber was a liquid. One of his comments about the trip was that there was a stiff wind blowing off of Lake Michigan, and it tried to blow him off the road as he was coming back to Indiana. The belting was also heavy enough that it was probably an overload for the Volkswagen Beetle.

Within a few days we had installed the belting and it worked very satisfactorily, for our purposes. We were not having any more slippage problems, the 15" belting solved the problems.

The information that I have for this period of time is only the check stubs, and the pallet deliveries, so the end of the month is here again.

Pallet deliveries are, Dana, 2,150, 500 blocks, Bohn, 350, and 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 50 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets. I do not have any report on farm lumber.

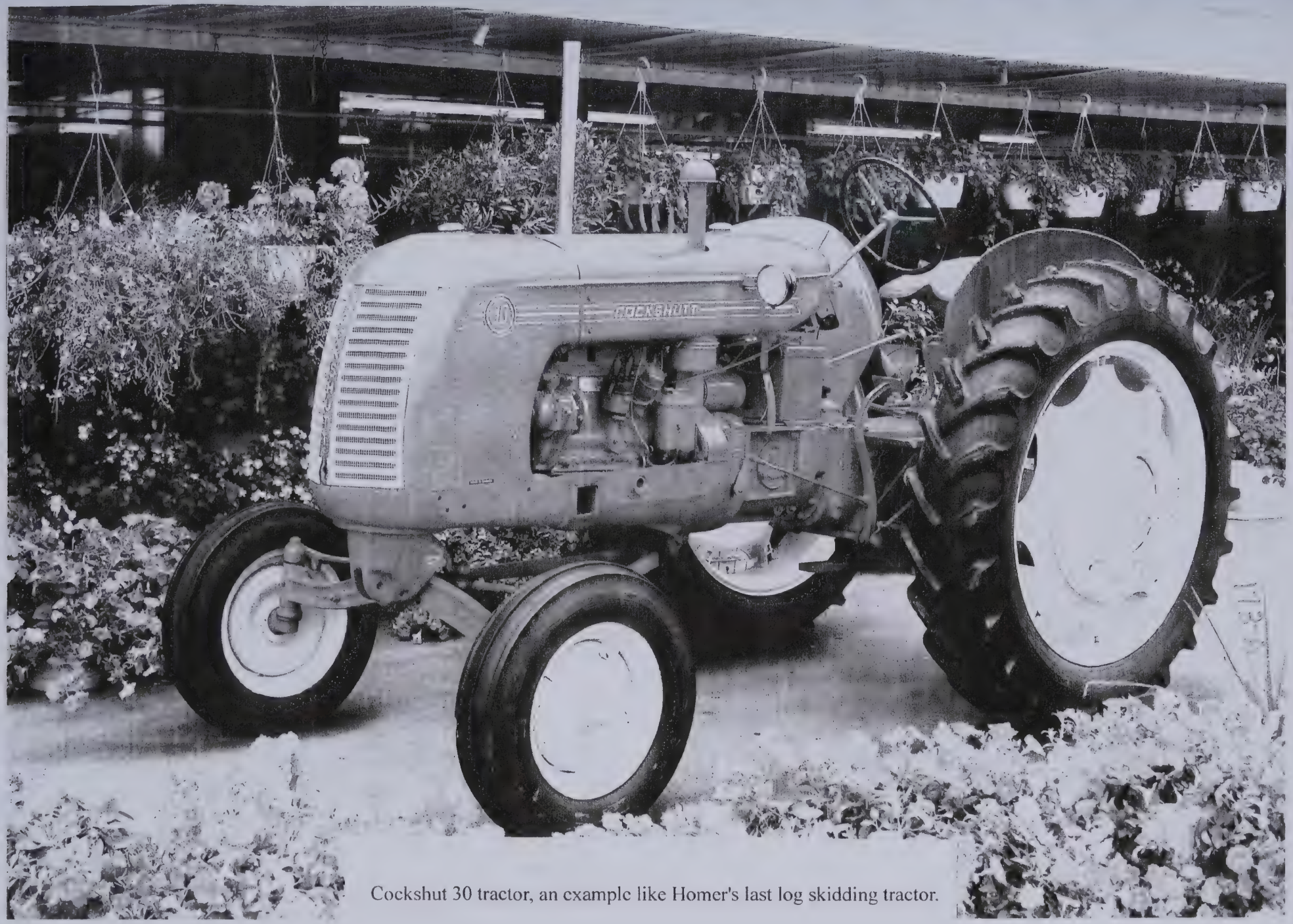
The notices for timber for sale, that we have been getting are due to the fact that the local State Forester, Larry Lichtsinn, has been telling them we are a sawmill that might be interested in their timber. We received another one on March 3rd. Homer did not bid on it.

The International forklift received a new clutch plate, for $53.06, and Homer installed it.

Homer has been thinking about some more equipment to make the operation run more smoothly. He got a notice in the mail that there was going to be an auction at Nappanee, Indiana, on March 20, 1971. He asked me to go along to observe and notice all that was for sale. The sale was the liquidation of all of the sawmill operation of the Mutschler Bros. Inc. cabinet shop. Homer was looking for a larger air compressor, a hydraulic log turner, and a live deck, to bring the logs up to the mill, at the turner with out the physical labor of rolling them with a cant hook. He was able to purchase all three of these items, plus some log binders, the air operated sawmill carriage. The live deck, carriage, and the log turner were all manufactured by the Corley sawmill equipment company, and the compressor was made by Gardener-Denver. The air carriage was for future use down the road. The turner and the live deck were intended to be installed very soon. The Air compressor would improve our air supply for our pallet nailing staplers and nailer. It will be put into place as soon as possible.

The sawmill electric bill for March was, $27.48. The main chainsaw that Homer has been using, has had more repairs and a bar and chain. The trailer we use to haul the backhoe and forklift, needed another tire and that was purchased at S&S Tire Co. Inc., for $49.33. Also, re-fills on Oxygen and Acetylene, from The Smith and Moore fuel station, for $12.31.

Homer has been using the Cockshutt tractor to skid logs with, and one of the logs he was skidding hit a large root and the tractor raised up, then the log released from the root and the tractor came down with a crash. The down thrust was enough to break the cast Iron front axle framework. He got it on the trailer, by chaining some extra weight on the rear of the other side of the tractor, for balance. Then he took it to Donald Schiffli to have it repaired. The repair was $24.00.




Cockshut 30 tractor, an example like Homer's last log skidding tractor.

Our sales books, with carbon copies, have almost run out. They come 50 sets per book and they are being used pretty quickly. The new ones came from Fox Office Supply Inc. and cost $8.16 for 5 books.

Ralph is cutting and skidding in the Shilling woods, and Harry is hauling the logs.

March has come to an end, and this is the list of pallets that were delivered. Dana, 2,500 pallets, 2,995 blocking pieces, Bohn, 411 pallets, 1,700 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets, New Haven, 250.

Glen Cook, has been with us for some time now, making pallets, and cutting pallet material to length. One day he did not have enough to do, cutting material, he pulled the bottom swing cut-off saw forward where it was solid and the made a 16" long toy hand saw out of 1/2" thick pallet material, I still have it and there will be a picture of it in the picture section of this story. He also made a "giant's" toothpick about 10" long. I am glad he did not get hurt doing this. We did not know about it right away. He showed us during break time several days later.

We are still getting cull logs from Hicksville, and my allergies are really beginning to kick up from the Ash vapors.

The bookkeeper for our accounting firm, comes after the end of the month every month, and checks all of our paperwork, so the accountant can make the monthly reports and figure our tax responsibility. Her work is a set fee of $45.00 each month.

We are getting saw teeth and most of the other supplies we need for sawing from Lansing again, files, shanks, lumber crayons, and even cant hook handles. The recent order was noted as saw teeth, and supplies, and cost $259.60.

In 1963, we first purchased timber from Norbert Brenneke, at Woodburn, and he recently contacted us again, he had some more trees to sell, which we bought, for $450.00. This was about 11,000 bd.ft. Another small group of logs was purchase from Edward Doster, for $250.00.

I am for the rest of 1971, going to be using only the check book stubs, and the pallet deliveries. I had this material stored in my basement, and I live next to Cedar Creek in Auburn, Indiana. In 2009, we had a flood that was comparable to the 1982 flood, that devastated some of Fort Wayne. Some of the paperwork was lost during that event in 2009.

The April pallet deliveries were, Dana, 2,000 pallets, 500 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 300 pallets, Bohn, 650 pallets, 1,000 blocks,.

The 4th. Of May, we received a "Jockey", mill saw sharpening grinder. It will be of great use after the saw teeth are sharpened with a file for about ½ of their life, because, when filing with a hand file you are generally not going to file the full depth of the tooth, therefore, the tooth angle changes and the tooth becomes blunt after about 5 or 6 filings. The Jockey will get to the bottom of the tooth angle and keep the original angle. It can be used instead of filing from the beginning of the life of the teeth as well. It has a grinding wheel size that is exact for the saw teeth. It straddles the saw, therefore , the name Jockey. It will take a little time to get used to it. We will still be filing a lot of the time, but it will be useful. The slip says we also got files and belt lacing as well.

Saw and toothpick made by Glen Cook at the sawmill with the cutoff saw.
The way he did this was dangerous, but he did not get hurt

The sawmill and pallet operation is working with 2 full time and 2 part time employees at the present time. George, Homer, Glen, Cliff, but I notice that our pallet deliveries are down by a little bit. The first week of May, the total hours for the 4 of us was, 142. That is an average of 35.5 hrs, average.

May 17th. Homer placed an ad in the local paper, The Evening Star, that he had lost a chainsaw and was trying to get someone to return it. The ad in the paper only cost, $1.13, and the saw did not return. I think, if I remember correctly, the saw was in the very front center of the truck bed , right behind the cab. It was usually nested within a pile of chain and binders in that location. This time either there was a tight turn at more speed than normal, or it was not really nested well.

The nearly predictable purchase of supplies at Allison Corp, for light bulbs, exhaust, windshield wipers, contact points, ignition condensers, or spark plugs, cost $31.66 on May 17th. The regular shipment of staples and air gun nails is noted on the same day, for $483.00. Someone went to Sutherland Lumber for Pine boards to cut for Dana. That was $84.00. Homer went to the Jay Snider auction, and his bids brought "supplies and repair parts", is the note on the check stub, for $59.50.

The normal small breakdowns, of the sawdust drag chain breaking, or losing paddles, other things like electric motors that stop working, and staple gun repairs, take some of our time on a regular basis. Most of the staple gun repairs involved replacing O-rings and other seals, driver blades, and sometimes the piston slide cylinder would become worn enough to not seal correctly. Usually the staple guns were able to be repaired in 15 minutes or less, because we had been using them long enough, to know why it was not working. Other things like light bulbs were fairly often replaced because of vibration, even though we were using rough service bulbs. There was always a mental list of things that needed to be done before we started sawing each day, checking fluid levels in the Hercules, and the trucks, greasing the bearings, on all of the moving parts of the mill and all of the accessories, as well as sharpening. These duties were usually completed in 1 hour each day we sawed. Basically if you were going to use it, in needed to serviced before use.

The end of another month, Dana pallets, 1,560 pallets, Bohn, 300 pallets, 1,000 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 130 pallets, New Haven, 0.

Homer, purchased timber from Ethel Warstler, on June 1, 1971. The contract reads, Sawmill agrees to pay $800.00 for 68 marked trees on West side of C.R. 55, Concord Township, DeKalb Co. Indiana, to be removed by August 1st. 1971. Access granted when ground is fit, Care to be taken not to damage property or trees, No Walnut, Check to be mailed June 2nd, 1971, in full $800.00. signed by both parties.

Glen Cook's brother, Lavoy Cook started working at the mill on the last week of May, full time, he had just graduated from school.

We had people call and ask, Will you buy this tree? It did not happen real often, but on June 10th. W.C. Stevenson did just that. Homer looked at the tree, and it was a Walnut, and he paid him $40.00 for the tree. Most of the timber we bought had a written agreement about how we would pay for the timber, but some did not. I have a check stub saying, Apply on timber, and this one was for $1,000.00. This is the Shilling woods, that Ralph and Harry have been working. It was being paid as it was brought to the mill rather than on a schedule. Elvert Nichols, hauler is still delivering logs to the mill. The latest check stub says, 13,331 feet of Cottonwood delivered on yard, $865.22.

The sawmill is still purchasing White Ash from Hicksville, and the latest was for 2 loads of cull logs. The electric bill for the sawmill, is quite variable, depending on which things were turned on. The most recent bill was only $21.94.

Now that I am several weeks in from the chain saw lost ad in the paper, I find out that the chains and the chain saw all were lost, either because the truck was sitting somewhere or they were left at the logging site, while Homer went some where, and were spotted and taken. The reason I say this is, we were soon at Wayne Pipe and Supply Co., picking up a new pail of bulk chain and hooks Spent $70.85. That was a whole pail of 5/16" chain, which made 4 chains, when finished.

The fuel tanks were filled, but I don't have individual amounts, just the total. $251.21. Harry is still hauling logs from the Shilling tract of timber. His latest pay is for 15,196' delivered to the mill. Elvert Nichols, hauler is also bringing in logs at $65 per M. bd. ft.

July 5th. There is a check for $241.74 for concrete. This is the cost for building the base, and pit channel for the log turner. We normally would have timbers right up to the carriage area, but now the logs have to be stopped about 3' away from the carriage. Then, we lay a couple of 4x4's in the gap to roll the logs to the carriage. It is less convenient for now, but the end result will be a lot better.

The 1950 Ford dump truck just got a new battery, from Western Auto. It cost $22.37. The International forklift, has worn guide wheels in the mast, also bearing wear. The parts were $29.34.

Homer wrote an agreement, to purchase timber from Ray Snider, on 7-16-1971. Mr. Snider lived on Old Brick Road just outside Auburn, Indiana. The property is North of present day Auburn Drive. It is East of the present day Duesenberg Drive, and some of the woods has been developed in the last 3 or 4 years. The tract has a lot of Tulip Poplar in it also Oak, Maple, and Hickory. The agreement reads, "Abel's Sawmill agrees to purchase timber in Snyder woods, 16" in diameter at stump. At a price of $45.00 per M. straight through-- top logs included. Stay out of woods when too wet. Right of way granted when fit, NO Walnut. Must be out by Aug. 31, 1972. Minimum of $2,000.00, with $1,000.00 this date, and $1,000.00, August 1971. Bal. when finished". Signed by both parties. Note, except for the Walnut, everything else of size was going to get cut out. This was actually a good timber practice, because there was enough cut out, to open the canopy, and get light in, so some of the species that have to have light could get it. Two of those species in this type of dirt are White Oak, and Tulip Poplar.

A weather note, July 20th., The record cold temperature, going back to 1948, was 50 degrees.

The original log yard was between the now new mill and the North driveway into the mill. That all changed when we began getting logs from 3 different people, Homer, Harry, and "Hen" Barron, Mr. Nichols driver. We started a new log yard South of the new mill, specifically for Hen to deliver to. Homer and Harry both delivered to the North lot, which was North of the North driveway. The North lot was where DuWayne Goings was, when the log hit him.

Near the end of July, our employee list was as follows, Homer Abel, George Abel, G'Nell Abel, Clifford Billow. Warren had left us in June, for other opportunities, Glen Cook, left when school was out, and Lavoy Cook also left, in July. That meant the sawmill was operating on 3 people and G'Nell was on phone and paperwork. Scramble we did, and we lived to tell about it. We had no one else until August 16, when Gerald Smith joined us, to work full time.

The July, pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,600 pallets, 870 blocking pieces, Bohn, 600 pallets, 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 300 pallets, New Haven, none.

Another weather note, we had another record cold night, back to 1948, of 48 degrees on 7-31-1971.

Homer has mentioned to me that he is thinking about the replacement steam sawmill, and the possibility of also making a museum, and having a cider press, wash room, and old time bunk room for sawmills in the early 1900's. He has a large accumulation of items that would fit in the time period and is thinking about purchasing more period items.

Homer is also in the planning stage for another addition to the present mill building. It provide a roof over the slab wood conveyor and also a automated slab wood saw that would be in place, just beyond our present pallet material cut-off saw station. The rest of the new building would be used for storage space of sawed-ahead lumber. The live deck to move the logs to the log turner is also in the near future.

Homer has been, planning and working on the inside structures in the boiler building, adding bricks around the rectangular pipe that exits the boiler, and enters the chimney. Also, thinking in terms of the new steam sawmill, he plans for the new building to be 4' wider, at 36', instead of 32'.

The pallets are being built and the mill is operating well, but even with another person, Gerald Smith working, we are still pressed to find time, for all of these extra things Homer is planning for the future. Starting on 8-23 we had another worker, part time. Chris Roark, is working through the DeKalb Central School System, in the afternoons. That will help tremendously.

Another month has passed, and it is time for the pallet deliveries to be noted. Dana, 2,250 pallets, 1,455 blocking pieces, Bohn, 200 pallets, 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 425 pallets, they are in the season of Christmas preparation, and are booming. New Haven, 350 pallets.

The final pieces of concrete work for the stop and load device, have been installed at a cost of, $36.72. It has 3 sections of concrete, one for the hydraulics to sit on and the other 2 , for mounting the device. It is a long shaft, about 11', and on the shaft there are 3 cast iron devices. They have 2 sides, the one that is above the level of the log deck is shaped like a ½ moon, concave, and the other side is below the deck level and continues the form of the moon. This part when rotated, will cause the log to move forward and onto the carriage. While the shaft is in the position to move the log, the other side is equivalent of the rest of the moon, a circle, which prevents the next log from moving forward. So, the shaft is only capable of rotating about 3/4's of a turn total, in its motion.

Homer has purchased a set of wheel weights from DuWayne Goings that will be mounted on the forklift that was built after the fire, on the rear of a Cockshutt 30 tractor. They cost $12.00.

Robert Holtzberg, has joined the crew, he will make pallets, and work in the mill, part time.

The large Shilling tract of timber is finished, and Ralph can move on to another woods to cut and skid logs. He has been working alone, except when he needed help, and then Harry would help him.

Homer picked up a roll of 14-3 "Romex" wire at Auburn City Hardware, and other items too.

Ralph is starting on the Waring woods, September 13, 1971. He has been working for a good number of years, and is really careful in his cutting of trees, he has never had an injury.

The total fuel for the trucks and mill for the most recent fill-up is $208.52. I do not know specifics.

I am still working from the check stubs, and do not have a lot to report, but looking ahead, I see a lot more notes, tagged with Post-it-notes, before the end of the year.

The September pallet deliveries, Dana, 3,030 pallets, and the PE-1405, their expendable- inter-plant pallet was, 1,241 of those pallets. They also received 325 blocking pieces. Bohn, 700 pallets, a good month there. Crane-Edmund, 272 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets.

I know that we were continuing to sell lumber to the farmers, but I do not have a record of it.

October is beginning, and there are are 3 full time, 2 part time employees, working pallets,and mill.

Homer is working just 40 hours a week at this time, so his check stub says, he had a very mild heart-attack, about September 24th. He is working, but not at the most physical of the work. More over-seeing of the process than actually doing the work. Probably picking up supplies, delivering, loading pallets to deliver, scaling logs, and thinking how to ease the load. By the third week of October, he is back to 44 hours. Prior the the attack, he was working 53-57 hours.

Homer is at a Russell Kruse auction, and there is an old, obsolete, electric forklift, but it has one item that makes it of interest to him. The lift still has it's forks, other than that it is only good for scrap metal. Homer purchased it for $140.00 and some other supplies for 39.52. The forks were worth more than he paid for the unit, so it was a bargain.

The Pine lumber for the sticks for Dana, were not available, so this time, the lumber was Spruce boards, at a cost of $97.28.

Another trip to The Anderson's warehouse. This time it was for, motor oil, nails, and batteries for some of the equipment. The total cost of the items was, $176.23. The oil was again, 2- 55 gallon barrels.

The nails and staples to make the pallets has been averaging $400-500 per order. The nails were only used on two of the pallets that we made. Everything else was stapled.

October is over, and the pallets were delivered, to Dana, 2,050 pallets, Bohn, 600 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 225 pallets, New Haven, 250 pallets.

A while back, I mentioned that Homer was looking for a automated saw to cut up the slab wood. He was in Ney, Ohio, a couple of weeks ago talking to the people that operate Ney Lumber Company, and they mentioned that they had a slab wood saw that they would sell. He bought it for $250.00.

Ralph has taken some time off, to have a vacation, and Harry is now cutting, skidding , and hauling for a while. Harry is working the Warstler woods now. Homer has just purchased timber from Maurice Kline, 113 trees and 3 Walnut tops, per the contract, for $797.50.

By the late 1960's, John Walter had moved to the property that is now, 2021, the Heron Lake development. It was all farm land at the time, and he was raising cattle on the property. He was aware that there was a considerable amount of gravel under the hill portion of the property. He had sold the land where he had previously lived to the Methodist church, for their new building.

One day in the fall of 1971, he had an accident with his farm truck, a 1947 Dodge 1-1/2 ton truck. All of the damage was to the right front corner of the truck, and Homer thought the truck bed might be of some use to him, so he purchased it for $35.00. It just sat around, and was not used by Homer.

Small electric motors of less than 2 HP, were a constant problem at the sawmill. Another new one for $78.00, and repairs to another at, $15.30. This one might have been the sawdust drag motor. Chainsaw chains and bars were about the same, seems like there was always one in the shop for repair.

Homer was always on the lookout for Cottonwood logs or trees that were for sale. Richard Rupert had a few thousand feet of Cottonwood, and Homer purchased them for, $188.85.

Ralph is done cutting in the Warring woods, and there was a total of almost 50,000 board feet of timber from that woods. The final payment was made for the timber.

Someone made a trip to Sutherland Lumber, and picked up the Pine boards again, and also the roofing for the newest addition to the new mill I wrote about... The boards were, $93.28, and the roofing was, $128.52. This means that the building is almost finished. That is a good thing because the weather will be bad very soon.

We had been to the Standard Iron and Metal, scrap yard several times in the last few months, and there were always a pile of bolts in one area. Homer had picked up some a couple of times, and paid the going scrap price for them. Usually it was just 5-10 pounds worth. I do not know if it was him or myself, but this time the was a check stub for 110 pounds, and the cost was only $11.22. These bolts were coming from a warehouse in Garrett, and they were spilled and floor sweepings, bolts. When you purchased them, you had the privilege to sort out what you desired from the pile, where it had been dumped. Later, the company figured out that the bolts were being sought out by a lot of people, and they started putting something in the containers to damage the bolts beyond use. I know the sawmill probably got between 300 and 400 pounds of bolts before that happened.

The gasoline use is up considerably this time when the bill was paid, $377.55, for mill and trucks. There is a note that some V-belts were purchased, for the cutoff saw. Homer wanted the doors on the new section of building to be made from Pine, to keep the weight down, and the boards were purchased at Broadview Lumber in Auburn, For $62.71. The boards were 1x8x14", shiplap style. He did not have to purchase the track or rollers for these doors, because he had all he needed from an auction he had been to recently. The track and rollers, were "cannonball" style, which is one of the better types of systems.

The Nowak and Williams Supply Co. was one of several sources to purchase welding rods and they were the choice this time, 50 pounds, of 5/32" were purchased.

We have been getting a steady supply of Ash from Hicksville, we have a good record with them, and will pay when larger quantity. This time, for $737.00 and 12,291 feet of logs.

The November pallets, Dana, 3,042 pallets, 1,825 blocking pieces, Bohn, 700 pallets, 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 112 pallets, New Haven, none.

November had 2 days of record high temperatures, back to 1948, November 1, it was 87 degrees, and November the 2nd, it was also 87 degrees.

Floyd Myers, had 1,758 feet of logs to sell to the mill, and Paul LaRowe, also sold timber to the mill, in the amount of 4,969 feet. The dollars per thousand feet was based on the type of logs and the species, it was presently between $35.00- $65.00 per thousand feet.

Homer is still working on the steam mill project, he just purchased some valves and other items from Tom Norton Machinery, for $145.50.

On the 15th, of December, a new employee started to work for the mill. Ted Winslow started working in the mill as well as making pallets. He had recently moved here from the Wrangel, Alaska area. He came to us from a conversation he had with Marion Carper, our neighbor , on the next farm to the North. Ted had previously worked the sawmill log pond in the Southeast area of Alaska. And his wife was from here, and Marion's wife and his wife are sisters.

Harry Strong had been hauling from the Shilling, Warstler, and Warring woods, and they were finished now and he was paid the balance due for the last of these haul jobs.

Someone from the Auburn Street Department, called Homer and asked if he would look at some logs they had on their lot, from city trees they had cut down, and Homer wrote a check for $50.00 for the logs. Ralph is starting the Ray Snider woods, and has already cut and skidded over 11,000 feet.

There are check stubs for several repairs, some for trucks, and one of the forklifts, and there were some new tools as well. Some of these expenditures were to lower the year end cash on hand. In the last 4-5 years, it happened every year. Because the last day of the year was on 12-31, on a Friday, everyone was paid on Friday rather than the usual Monday.

The December pallet shipments were, Dana, 3,050, 1,275 blocking pieces, Bohn, 400 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 313 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

The total pallets for the year, Dana, 29,118 pallets, and 11,700 blocking pieces. Bohn, 6,136 pallets, 9,400 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 2,730 pallets, New haven, 2,250 pallets.

The year was very good and a lot was accomplished , and learned. Our employees changed during the year. Warren Carnahan left in April, Glen Cook left in May, Lavoy Cook was with us for the month of May. Cliff Billow left in November, for a month vacation, and we miss him, for his work ethic. Bob Holtzberg moved away and left after after 6 weeks, in October, Chris Roark began in early September, and is with us , Ted Winslow came mid-December, Gerald Smith began mid August, and is with us.

# 1972

January of 1972 begins with the International forklift needing some repair parts. They cost $65.71. Homer took three of our mill saws to Indianapolis to be tensioned . I know, if you are reading this you think, "It has not been too long since this was done." You would be right. Part of the problem stems from the fact that the saws perform differently in different weather and if there has been any change in the power running the mill. Also, sometimes, there are other problems, relating to frozen wood or sawing when the saw has been over-heated in a cut because of poor sharpening practices. I am not sure what was the problem, but evidently there was a problem. The work cost $40.00 per saw.

There is another timber tract, that Homer made an agreement with the owner, Millard Diehl. The agreement states, "Mr. Diehl agrees to sell timber in woods East of buildings, adjoining road 32, Dekalb Co, Ind. Excluding Walnut trees, all timber of saw size to make $1,680.00 worth. 2 Walnut along rd. 32 for $60.00 extra, total $1,740.00. $1,000.00 cash today, check #1692, $740.00 by end of Feb, 1972." signed by both parties. The agreements that I quote are all hand written and in duplicate, the seller gets one and the mill keeps the copy.

On January 23, 1972, Melissa J. Abel joined the the George Abel family, and we now have 3 children. It is Sunday morning, and the Abel family is not at church, and everyone there knows we are expecting a baby and we are not there , so they know where we are.

The monthly electric bill is $38.36. The last of the new building is done, and closed up. The size is 32' where it joins the 90' long mill building. It attaches at the West end of the 90' building, and goes South 36'. The extra room is really handy, there is lumber storage room and a place for the dump truck to park out of the weather for loading slab wood with the conveyor- elevator. The South end is left with an exposed, open end ready for future growth. The West side, has 2 roller doors, that open 16'.

We have been getting more Walnut short logs, less than 6', from Charles Tackles, from Garrett, from the log yard near the railroad. The latest group, Homer paid $30.00 for.

On January 29, 1972, Homer goes to make the last payment, early, on the Millard Diehl timber, and after paying, they talk, and Mr. Diehl has decided that he will offer the other woods on the West side of the buildings to Homer, so here is the agreement for the other tract. At the top of the page, this time, is, the word, "Contract. Mr. Diehl agrees to sell timber on tract West of the buildings--, all usable logs for a guaranteed payment of $1,000.00 minimum. Figure at $40.00 per M, any excess over $1,000.00 to be paid when finished. $1,000.00 due March 1st. /, bal – (if any), when cut. Access when frozen or dry, remove within 1 year." Signed by both parties. Mr. Diehl was very satisfied with everything, or he would not offered more timber for sale. Note, Homer did not expect to buy more timber, he did not have his checkbook with him that day.

Gerald Smith, left our employ, on January 29th, 1972. He previously had been working at Dana, and had been laid off, and now, was re-called to work at Dana again.

The January pallet totals are, Dana, 2,650 pallets, 325 blocks, Bohn, 400 pallets, and 500 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 200 pallets, New haven, 125 pallets.

Ralph has cut and skidded 11,111 feet of timber at the Snyder tract already, There a lot of very nice Tulip Poplar being cut in this woods. The size of these trees is in the 30" to 36" diameter. A couple of the trees had been lightning struck and the wood was purple, when sawed and , turned brown when dry.

Harry Strong, has hauled over 23,000 feet of logs from the Snyder tract. He was being paid $25 per thousand feet hauled. As an Independent Contractor, and licensed buyer, Harry was also cutting and hauling other timber, for other mills, and hauling the cull logs from Hicksville to our mill .

There is another new employee, he is William M. Smith, and his job is pallet making. He started on 2-1,1972.

I have some notes on a calendar, that my mother was keeping. On February 4, she notes that there were snowdrifts. I should note, that we have over time gotten agreement with the County Highway Dept, and they are pretty good about getting our little dead end road plowed. Prior to 1965, it was sometimes the next day after a storm, that they plowed and that was usually near the end of the workday.

Homer had taken the hydraulic cylinders off the Terra-Trac, because they were leaking at the seals. He had to go to ABC Specalty Co. to get the new seals and the internal packing parts. They were located West off of North Anthony, in Fort Wayne. The parts were $14.48.

Homer has been in contact with John Merritt, the contractor that will take down the Methodist Church at the corner of West seventh street and VanBuren St. The building was erected in 1890, and their new building is now finished on East 7th, St, and Duesenberg. Homer has gotten permission to take certain items as salvage from the building before it is taken down. Those items included wood doors, a re-enforced fire door from the boiler room, window sill pieces of sand stone, and Pine 2x12"x24's from the education addition from 1952. There were other items I am sure, but I do not have a list, these were from memory. He paid Mr. Merritt, $350.00 for the materials. I helped remove the 2x12"s, walking along a sill perimeter piece that was 10" wide with a chain saw and reaching out and down and cutting the piece off just inside the wall. Homer was cutting the other end at the same time. Essentially, we were saving about 22' of the length. Mr. Merritt had already removed the roof of the section and it was only about 9' to the floor. Believe it or not, only one of the planks broke on impact.

Ralph, has cut and skidded another 13,496 feet of logs at the Snyder tract, as of 2-23,1972. Our crew at the mill, 4 full time and 3 part time, worked a total of 275-1/2 hours the week of February 21th to the 25th. The full time people worked a total of 49 hours of overtime, and the part time people worked 66-1/2 hours. Cliff Billow, worked 39 hours, and he usually only worked 20 hours or less.

I have 2 notes about firewood deliveries, one for a load of slab wood to go to Gick house at St. Joe, Indiana, and one to Johnson, not sure where, we charged a minimal fee for the wood, mostly as a service, and to get rid of it. Considering the time to deliver it, we were not making any money on it. I have a memorable trip to write about, I believe the load that went to Gick's, was one that I delivered. On my way back to the sawmill, there had been some frost overnight, and I was going to fast, West bound on Co. Rd. 54, where it turns into Co. Rd. 47, about 2 miles Southeast of the mill. As I enter the normal 15 MPH curve, there is frost on the road in the shade of the trees, and I begin to slide, and just in time, there is a very small patch of sunlight on the road and I regain traction, and make the curve. There were a lot of trees where I was sliding for, and I am glad God provided the sunshine.

February pallets delivered, Dana, 3,239 pallets, 1,000 blocks, Bohn, 850 pallets, 1,210 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 323 pallets, New haven, 400 pallets. The high hours week, we delivered to Dana every day, and two days we made two trips. That explains the large hours worked.

On March 2nd, Homer made the scheduled payment to Millard Diehl, one day late, I am sure he called him to let him know. The same day, he paid Ruth Stauffer, for 2 Walnut trees, $45.00.

Homer wanted a pickup truck and Chester Davis Jr, had a farm truck, a 1949 Chevy, that fit the bill. He paid $50.00 for it and it had a nice stock rack on it, It was dark Green, and had a lot of rust on it. but ran good.

James Provines started working for the mill, full time, on March 6th, 1972. He worked in the mill off-bearing the mill, operating the edger saw, and cutting pallet material, as well as making pallets.

The service forester, Larry Lichtsinn, sent us a notice of a timber sale in Wells County, West of Bluffton. This was way out of our area, and we did not bid on it. It was our type of material, but just too far away.

The Ray E. Mchugh Co., sent an order we had called in, of files, and teeth for the mud saw. It was ceiling mounted, and had 3/4" wide teeth on a saw blade that was about 10" in diameter. It was counter-weighted, and could be pulled down manually, to cut a line with hardened teeth, where the main mill saw would cut. This cut away the dirt and other material that would dull the main mill saw. I am mentioning this now, because I did not know when it actually was installed. It did a pretty good job of cleaning the path for the main saw. It did make the person operating it quite dirty, as it threw the trash it cut out back at the person operating the mill.

As of March 13th, the Snyder tract is almost finished, with another 14,115 feet cut and hauled.

The next order from our supplier in Lansing, for saw teeth, did not have 500 bits of one of the sizes on hand, and called the Simonds Saw and Steel Co. in Chicago, and had them sent them from their warehouse, by UPS. We had a very large order, and it also included, lumber crayons, belt lacing, a set of log tongs, that weighed 26 pounds, and 3 different sizes of saw teeth. The total bill was $284.01.

The Pine boards for the Dana sticks, have gone up in price, to $120.62 for enough for 1,000 pieces. This is roughly $20.00 more than we have been paying. I note that the staples are also more expensive.

Charles Tackles, has brought another group of Walnut shorts, 217' of scale, receiving, $26.00. Ralph Hose, is starting on the next woods, Millard Diehl's tract.

It's time for the monthly pallet report, for March, Dana, 4,083, pallets, with 1,720, being the PE-1405, inter plant expendable,"one time use", and 1,825 blocking pieces, Bohn, 700 pallets, 850 blocks, New Haven, 200 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 377 pallets.

While Homer was gone one of the days in March, the drive to the sawdust pile had become a quagmire, because there was no drainage in the area, and I had an idea, there was a Red oak log?, it had a 6" hole the whole way through it, with a 4" shell. The backhoe was here, and I could run it. So, I dug a channel through the spot that needed a drain, and installed the "culvert", It was about 14' long and it would prove to work very well over the next several months. My father was not a fan, he thought I had wasted my time. However, it was still there and functioning as late as 1995. when it finally rotted and fell apart.

April 1st and 2nd, 1972, were both snowy days, then it rained on Monday, the 4th. Then on the 6th, it warmed up during the day, to 72 degrees, and in the evening, there was a cold rain. The next day, in the morning, it was ice, turning to snow and the temperature dropped to 22 degrees by evening. These are from the notes my mother kept on a calendar. That is enough weather for now.

We are buying timber from a number of people at this time. Carl Perkins, for $87.81, DuWayne Goings, timber from the Joe Miller woods, $175.00, W.K. Dillman, $1,750.00. All of these before the 8th. Of April.

The Dillman contract reads, "Timber contract between W.K. Dillman-seller & Abel's Sawmill, Inc.-buyer. In 28 acre woods, located Sec. 32T33N, R14E, DeKalb Co. Trees to be cut-165 spot marked. Approx 20- X marked and down or dead Red Elm. Ck # 1822, today to pay in full $1,750.00. Timber to be removed by Mar. 1, 1973. To prevent and suppress forest fires. To repair or settle for damages, to improvements-fence, ditch, crops, stay out when too wet. Will not assign this agreement without consent. Seller to guarantee title and right-of-way-In case of dispute- arbitration by board of 3, each select one, and the two select third party. Operations cease until settled." Signed by both parties.

There were several repair and other purchases mid month, Portman machine Shop, at a cost of $15.00, made a new collar for the edger. This part was attached to the movable saw in the edger, and connected to a long handle that the operator could manually move to adjust the saw, horizontally. There were 3 saws on the shaft, all movable, to make different widths of lumber.

Indiana, had a vehicle inspection law in effect for quite a number of years. The premise was, that everyone's vehicle should be inspected, because the owners either could not or would not repair them, if not forced. The real problem was, there was only a $5.00 fee, if there were no things to repair. The inspection process, involved all aspects of the vehicle, as far as lights, brakes, tires, wipers, steering, and the outside body was not to be rusty enough that there were sharp edges, that would endanger someone if they were to walk by the vehicle. All of this would require at least one hour or more if done correctly. The various shops that were doing the inspections, were complaining, that they were not being paid enough for the inspections. Only if there was repair work to be done, would they be able to make money. Because we did most of our repair work, we did not have many problems. It was still an inconvenience to take the vehicle and go to town and have the inspection. The most recent vehicle to have an inspection, was the 1950 Chevy dump truck. It cost $5.00, at the local Ford garage, Auburn Motor Sales.

My mother, went to the Fox Office Supply Co. to pick up more of the duplicate sales books that we used. They cost $5.90.

Ralph is working the Diehl woods at this time, and has already cut a considerable amount. He was working on it but Harry had not yet brought any of the logs to the mill. He was being paid an advance, if Harry had not hauled them yet, giving him a weekly income.

Homer went to the gravel pit North of U.S. 6, again, and picked up 6.7 ton of #5 stone to add to our driveways, as they are getting a little mushy.

The electric bill for the month, is, $36.35. Homer is getting ready to make changes to our electric system in the near future. We are on a 100 Amp service and are about maxed out.

We received 2 more loads of Ash logs from Crook-Miller, which cost around $80.00. They had a numbering system for the logs, to keep track of them. Every log had a number written on the end of it. It also noted the board feet that were in them. The smallest footage, was, 10', and the largest was 61'. These logs were usually knotty, or had other defects, making them unusable for the handle factory. We usually could use them for 2x4" runners in the pallets. Ash was hard enough, to be very usable.

The next batch of Pine for the sticks for Dana, were just purchased, and the price was down a little.

Homer went to Standard Iron and Metal, located on South Wayne St, where Omni-Source is today. to pick up a used transmission for the Ford dump truck. It had a fault, that was notorious for that truck. The same slider gear served both the 1st and reverse gear. If you did not come to a complete stop to shift from forward to reverse, you could break a tooth or two out of the gear. That was what had happened. The used transmission cost, $25.00 at that time. There was almost always a lot of vehicles on their lot and they did not scrap them right away, because there was a lot of demand for parts. This was because, unlike today, if you had tools and skills you could work on your own vehicles. There was plenty of room to work and it was all mechanical. There was no such thing as computerization, at that time. It was actually pretty simple, to work on any vehicle. Homer, did the repairs on the transmission, and good as new again.

Osten Roop had some logs to sell to the mill, he was paid $10.00. We had a buyer from Jeffersonville, Indiana, asking for veneer grade logs, contact us, and we had 29 logs that were of grade, to be sold, and received $1,258.00 for them. They sent a truck to pick them up. It took two loads.

We also had communication with Frick Lumber Co. in Brimfield,Indiana, and they were soliciting for us to saw some grade lumber for them. We did saw a whole Semi- load for them, as well as a 12 log load of Walnut and White Oak. This brought in $1,394.24, for our mill.

The April pallet sales totals, Dana, 2,649 pallets, 325 blocks, Bohn, 600 pallets, 725 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 350 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

It had been a while since the Continental engine ran in the original mill building, and Homer went in to run it for a while, and discovered that we had not covered the exhaust pipe, and water had entered the engine, causing it to have valves that were stuck. So he disassembled the engine to determine what all he needed to repair. There were several valves that needed to be cleaned up and the seats ground, and valves ground, as well as a some rust on the cylinder walls. With the gaskets to re-assemble the engine. The parts and labor was $69.97, plus his time to take apart and re-assemble it. After it was running again, he made sure there was a cap on the exhaust, after it was run.

Harry Strong, got into the groove on the timber hauling, and got caught up on the Diehl woods, after finishing the Snyder job.

The first pay week in May, there were 245 hours worked by the 6 people, the 2 part time had 42 hrs.

Bob Anderson sold logs to the mill for, $775, and Elvert Nichols, hauler, brought in nearly,8,000'.

We have been using a product that will help us get more life and power, from the Hercules and the Continental engines. Made by a company in Texas, "Hydrotex", called Essentialube.

The 55 gallon of Essentialube, cost $204.24 with delivery charge, and I believe it does help with the engine power, and probably does improve the life of the engine as well.

Our accountant, knew about the OSHA health and safety requirements, and there was information available, but most businesses did not really know much, so he put together a seminar to inform his clients, if they were interested. He was doing it as a favor, and did not charge for it, just requested that they contact his office if interested. Homer went and was then more informed.

The Bob Anderson trees were in St. Joe, Indiana, and access was located at the East end of The Riverside Cemetery there. There was a steep driveway leading down to a stream, actually a DeKalb Co., stream, known as Bear Creek, just before it empties into The St. Joe River. The timber was on the other side of the stream, and there needed to be a bridge made to get there. Back when the steam mill was operating, we had sawed some bridge lumber, from some logs that had been delivered by a garbage collection company for that very purpose. The plank were 4" thick and had been stored, because the company never came to pick up the material. There were also 4 timbers, 20' long, that we had flatted on two sides, that were also stacked there. Homer made the decision that it had been 3 years since the material was sawed and they had not come for it, and he did not have any way to contact them, he would use it to build the bridge. He took the truck and trailer and delivered the plank and timbers and then proceeded to build the bridge. He had to get creative to get the timbers across the creek. I was not there, so I am not sure how he did it. But he did, and he cut, skidded and hauled the logs by himself, from there. I have since looked down the drive, and do not desire to have any part of that job. The interesting thing was, he fully intended to remove the bridge when he was finished, but we had a heavy rain soon after he finished and the bridge washed away.

Ted Winslow, was taking a load of pallets to Bohn, and he had just crossed the railroad and was ready to turn to enter U.S.6, at the grain elevator corner. Suddenly the 1950 Chevy truck, was driving strangely. He stopped and looked in his mirror, and he saw on the right side, that the rear axle was sticking out tires and all. This was before cell phones, so he went over to the elevator and called back to the sawmill, to let Homer know. The bearings on that wheel had failed and that released the axle from the security of the axle housing. I do not know the details of how it was taken care of, as far as getting it back to the mill. I do not see a check stub for towing, that means that Homer took our own tow vehicle to get it. The wheel bearings and the seal, and axle, cost $30.50. Sometimes, things get exciting, thankfully, this time it was when the truck was stopped and not going down the road.

Homer had been having more conversations with Millard Diehl. Now Mr. Diehl is selling the Walnut to our mill. Homer paid him $525.00 for the Walnut trees. The trees were good enough that Homer was going to sell them to another mill.

There is a bid process for the timber located in the Auburn Junction area, where the Grandstaff family used to operate a rendering service, to salvage the remains of dead farm animals, as well as the remains from butchering companies. The wooded area, was to be cleared to build another county open ditch, that would drain the area from all of the new Grandstaff Drive, as well as the Westedge Developments, of Auburn Homes and Westedge Mall, as well as other locations. Homer made a bid of $1,050 for the timber on the Grandstaff property. It was a strip 200 feet wide plus a tri-angle section between the old Auburn dump and the Railroad and the existing open ditch line, on the West. He got the nod on the bid and cut these trees, loaded and hauled them to the mill. There were various species there, and most were those that are associated with a wetland area. He had 1 month, to remove trees.

The timber cut on the Grandstaff property, went well as far as the cut went, but there was a lot of glass and old metal in the old dump area, and he ended up ruining both large drive tires on the forklift, before it was finished. The cost of the tires, and one tube was, $287.41.

May has been very busy for Homer, not only the timber at the Bob Anderson tract, and Grandstaff job, Homer has been sawing and building a pavilion at first Christian Church, over the last 6 weeks. He built trusses, sawed all the lumber for the other framing and with the help of other men at church, he was on hand for all of the process of building the pavilion. The dedication of the pavilion was 6-25-1972. There will be pictures in the picture section of this story.

The fuel consumption for the last two months, has been larger than usual, in that the tanks are being filled every two weeks now. The fill cycle had been around 3 plus weeks until recently.

The inspection for one of the trucks, was done at the Smith and Moore location on North Main Street. This one cost ten dollars and some cents, meaning there was a small repair done as well.

The Pallet sales for May were, Dana, 3,119 pallets, 1,000 sticks, Bohn, 800 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 285 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

We have been receiving 2-3 loads of logs per week from Nichols logging, and their driver, "Hen" Barron, is always fun to talk to. He is hauling with a tandem rear axle truck and always has about ¼ more on a load than we do.

Homer talked to Mrs. Grandstaff, about 4 more trees that were near a power line and they agreed to a price of $200.00 for the trees. One was a Walnut tree.

June 2nd. I delivered a load of pallets to Crane-Edmund, and on the way back, South of the Grain Elevator, C.R. 47, there was a bridge over an open ditch, and it was only 16" wide. There is a car a good distance ahead coming my way, and I believe I have time to make the bridge before he gets there. I was wrong, and we were going to meet on the bridge, and it had concrete side that were about 3' tall. Everything was going well, and we both were in the bridge, when the other driver panicked and hit his brakes, causing him to slide slightly my way, because one of his brakes locked up. In the seconds before we hit each others vehicles, he realized he was endangered, and laid down in his seat to the right, and it saved his life. Neither of us were hurt, but both vehicles were totaled. The corner of the steel reinforced truck bed caught his roof support post behind where he had been sitting and ripped the rest of the side of his car out. The impact was so severe that it broke the truck front axle u-bolts and the truck bounced over the whole front axle from the impact. This took the truck off the right side of the road beyond the bridge, about 75 feet, still upright and running, but no longer functional. The now free axle, ended up to the right of the rear of the truck. The next day the wrecker from the Ford garage was called to come and get the truck, their charge was $20.00.

Homer, has decided to grow a beard, something he has wanted to do for some time, and he wants to see what he looks like with a beard.

The mill received a request from New Haven Wire & Cable, desiring our current prices for the pallets we were delivering to them. They had lost their copy, and we returned the list the next day, noting that there were minimum amounts, for certain items when delivered.

The June pallet deliveries, Dana, 3,431 pallets, 825 blocking pieces, Bohn, 550 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, New Haven, 25 pallets.

I had been talking to my father for some time, about getting some fire extinguishers for the various buildings. He was not very inclined, and it took some time. Part of the reason I wanted them was, that I considered the new OSHA regulations, as being a very good reason to get them. He finally said I could do it. We talked about it and he said I could get 8-20 pound extinguishers and one 4 pound one. I went to Nowak and Williams Supply Co., where I found out the cost. The 20 pound ones would be, $74.80 each and the 4 pound would be, $27.00. With tax, they cost, $637.91. They came with brackets, and now we would have to figure out where to mount them. We mounted them near an exit point, in each building. I can say thankfully, we never had to use them. Just for the record, I saved them, and 45 years later, I used one at a practice time with fire extinguishers, and it worked perfectly, being stopped and started 6-7 times. They were supposed to be serviced annually, but never were.

Our accountant, J. Lee Dever, sent a note to us on July 14,1972, telling us that the OSHA poster should be prominently displayed, and that make sure you keep all records up to date.

The log turner is in place and the stop and load device as well. I do not remember who did it but, one of the carriage wheels was attacked by the log turner, and we needed to get new carriage wheels. Homer ordered 2 to have an extra on hand. The wheels came from the Frick Company, in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, that manufactured the carriage. The cost was $64.43. We were more careful about where the wheels were when turning logs, from then onward.

Kenneth Baughman, brought 2 logs to sell, an Ash, and a Pine, and Homer paid him $12.50 for them. Harry is working a woods just West of Concord, off of Co. Rd. 56, and it was across the railroad, but had an access drive. It now belongs to Richard Crow, and Homer had known it as, the Jackson place.

Homer is at another auction, Ralph Surfus, the stub says, supplies, for $21.50. Another auction, this time by Russell Kruse, at a location near Angola, and it was a welding shop. He purchased an Allis-Chalmers, 1949, WD, for $200.00, and other Misc. items for another $373.00.

The July pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,907 pallets, 430 blocks, Bohn, 800 pallets, 2,000 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 300 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

The next auction, was the Lester Boger estate, Auctioned by Russell Kruse. Homer, purchased an old airport baggage loader, with a LP gas fueled engine on it. He paid $100.00 for it, and I think he was thinking it would make a good slab wood elevator, in the future.

The International forklift is giving us some kind of problems, and the check stub does not say what, but it cost $185.24., to repair it. And,, two days later another $43.95.

I went to TSC, to pick up parts and supplies, and also, get another 1 HP electric motor.

We have been purchasing some products from, Beltraction Co, a division of North American Service Co. Inc. They are in Chicago, and we get belt dressing, liquid bolt loosener, and fabric cement on the present order. Most of the items are in pint sizes and we get 1 dozen at a time. This order,$31.00.

Homer is getting timber from the Donald Crowl timber tract at this time, East of Waterloo.

My mother's weather calendar, says, the weather was very rainy and a lot of lightning, on the 6th, of August, and there was a total of 2" of rain.

Billy Sechler, contacted Homer, and asked him to look at his White Oak trees. Homer offered him $55.00 per M, and he agreed to the terms Homer set forth, "Abel's Sawmill agrees to buy Oak logs at $55.00 per M straight through. Guaranteed minimum $400.00, any footage above this at $55.00, same." There were no signatures on the agreement. This was written on August 16, 1972.

So far, there has been 7,646 ' of timber hauled from the Crowl woods. Homer was working that woods by himself. Homer bought logs from Roy Gray, from the yard at his house. This was rare, but Homer looked them over and thought they would be free of nails.

Glen Cook is back after several months off, working part time, and it is good to have him back.

The August pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,820 pallets, 1,825 blocking pieces, Bohn, 600 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 400 pallets, and a 2x12"x 12', New Haven, 225 pallets.

September 4th, Homer bought logs from Francis Dulle, over 3,250' , for $162.50. On the 6th, I went to Sutherland Lumber Co, to pick up the Pine board, for Dana sticks.

Mon's weather notes say, rain on the 11th, and rain-flood on the 13th. I do not know how much more it rained, but if she said flood, there was a lot of rain.

Bill VanAuken, started working with the school program, on September, 11. He was making pallets. And because this was his first work experience, there was someone working with him.

The Billy Sechler timber is finished, and Homer's estimate of what he would pay was accurate. Harry hauled the Sechler logs, that Homer had cut. Robert Ridge sold some logs to the mill, for $70.62, and Leonard Smith also sold us logs, for, $39.88.

Homer has been looking for a truck to replace the Dodge, and he found one, at Garrett. The Hubbard Spool Company had a used International 1-1/2 ton truck with a flat bed, for $325.00. It was a 1960, and it was technically 13 years old, but looked good and had been serviced regularly.

The Indiana legislature, had made a law and the governor signed into law a requirement that all timber buyers had to be licensed, and bonded. There had been, sadly a lot of shady timber buyers in Indiana, that did not treat people fairly. The licenses had to be set up and ready to use starting on January 1,1973. They were offered starting on December 1, 1972.

There are a lot of small log purchases recently, and here are two more, Norm Gerig, for $258.00, and Forrest Littlejohn, for $62.50.

We are still getting cull logs from Hicksville, and there were 2 more loads recently. If I saw them, it will make me sneeze, then my nose runs, then I blow my nose. I saw some more, and repeat the process, sometimes I sneeze 6-8 times in a row. I was tested for the allergies, and am taking medication, but it does not help if I am constantly in the vapors from the Ash. But I stay with it and put up with the cycle of sneezing and blowing my nose.

Harry Strong, was cutting timber and was struck in the face by his chain saw, it happened in the most common way that cutters, get hurt. He was cutting after the tree was on the ground, and cutting a small limb, when his saw caught another small branch at a lower RPM, and the saw kicked back at him. He was cut on the cheekbone, and eyebrow, requiring stitches, with no other injuries. This happened on September, 23, 1972.

September pallet deliveries are, Dana, 3,414 pallets, 1,325 blocking pieces, Bohn, ended last month, abruptly. I don't know if they got a better bid or something else. I do not remember. It had been a good run. Crane-Edmund, 150 pallets, New Haven, 375 pallets.

The timber keeps coming, October 2nd, Homer wrote an agreement with Norman Rosner, on Co. Rd. 44, on land that would become a big part of the Steel Dynamics, Inc. steel mill in the early 1990's. The agreement, "On farm on Co. Rd. 44, 3 tracts, 1st, large woods at the South, take good and pallet (No Walnut), timber that is ready and should be cut. 2Nd, strip at West of farm, everything that is usable. 3Rd, Woods Northeast of buildings, everything usable-No Walnut. All at $55.00 per thousand, straight through. Right of way when fit, No Walnut. Signed by both parties.

Homer had been thinking about setting up a different process for the electric. He had several 3 phase motors, and had been toying with them, he had talked to several other people, and now knew that he could get a larger 3 phase motor running, on single phase power, by using a belted single phase motor, with a way to release it after the 3 phase motor is running, and the 3 phase motor will generate the third phase to run other 3 phase motors of lesser HP. Initially, he used a 5 HP 3 phase motor to operate a 3 HP motor, and it worked well. Remember, we are operating on a single phase 100 Amp service. The 3 phase motors would run on less amperage, and this seemed to be a part of the answer to use less amps, and lessen the load on the 100 amp fuses. This was what he did on a larger scale, with an idle 20 HP motor running, he could run a 7-1/2 HP, and 3 or 4 other 1 or 2 HP motors, and keep the amperage low. This all worked well for about 2 years, but it was, unknown to him taking a toll on some of the electrical system. I will comment on that later.

The owner of the Auburn City Hardware, Robert Kokenge, purchased a property South of Cedar Canyons Road, in Allen County, that was being developed, in early 1971, and had a new house built on the lot. The planned lot design, left about 25 trees, on the lot after the house was built, By the fall of 1972, about 15 had died, and he contacted Homer, to see if he was interested in purchasing the timber, that had died. Homer looked at them and paid $159.57 for the trees. Homer had become very skilled at cutting trees in bad circumstances, where buildings were concerned. There was no damage to the house. These trees died because there had been a lot of bulldozer work done on the lot to level and fill, and the trees had too much root damage, from the process.

Chris Roark, left the sawmill, 10-4-72 to take a job at Warner Automotive Parts Division, Auburn. He had moved up from pallet making, and was working in the mill some, cutting pallet material.

October 11th, Homer entered into an agreement with Scott Hook, to purchase timber. It reads much like the others, except, Mr. Hook wanted the trees cut as low as possible. No walnut at the price of the other trees. The price was $55.00 per thousand. Start at the East side of the woods, and cut as soon as possible. This was in Eastern DeKalb Co, North of the Newville area.

Frazer Farm Equipment, purchased a quantity of lumber, to make shipping crates, on10-12-72.

I do not know the time frame, but the mill and truck gasoline bill was $464.95, this time.

I have decided to follow my father, and grow a beard, as of 10-10-1972, our daughter, Melissa is almost 9 months old. I note this for future reference, later.

Ken Allison, of Allison's Automotive, had the forester mark trees to be sold in his woods, and Homer made a bid on them, but did not get the bid. There was a lot of Oak, Maple, and Hickory, and some other firm bid more for the trees.

I have a check stub, and it is dated 10-12-1972, but the actual check is dated October 16th, meaning that no one was actually available to go get the material on the 12th. On the 16th, I was the one to go get the Pine in Fort Wayne, and the check is for $365.13. That means, we purchased more than the usual amount of the Pine for the Dana sticks.

There is a check saying, Paid in full, to Glen Thompson, for logs, in the amount of $744.46. I do not have an agreement, for this timber, and at this point, it is all cut and at the mill.

My mother's weather notes say, we got the first snow of the year, on 10-18-1972. Always pretty.

Vernon, (Cy), Kline, brought in a log, was paid $6.52 for it, on October 25th. Will make pallets!

The October pallet report, Dana, 3,862 pallets, 1,825 blocking pieces, the largest month for Dana, to date. Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets, and a one time pallet make, for Kitchen Quip, on October 3rd, of 30 pallets.

There were 6 people working at the end of October, and the total hours were255-1/2. The full time, 223 hours, part time, 32-1/2 hours. The 4 full time were working an average of 56-1/2 hours.

Logs, logs, logs, from Hicksville, Otis Kempf, Wayne Koch, and Harry. Otis Kempf, had a small tract, and was paid $180.00, Hicksville, one load at $50.40, Harry, finished the Diehl woods, and Wayne Koch, several loads, that Harry hauled. These all occurred in early October.

James Provines left the sawmill on 11-13-1972, to take a job driving truck. He had been full time.

My position as vice president of the Corporation, did include a lot of tasks. One of them was, making out and sending new pricing notices to our customers, and sometimes I did not get it right. This time I wrote a notice of pricing, and sent a slip that was quoting a price of $1.30 for a pallet. It was incorrect, and Homer had to send one a day later that said the price was to be, $1.50. Oops.

Ralph is finished with the Verle Provines woods, and will be working on the Hook tracts. Crook-Miller, is having a real battle getting quality logs on their lot, and the weather has been the large factor. The year had been quite wet, and they need a large stockpile for the winter. They are offering a premium for quality logs. They were offering an extra $15.00 per thousand, for all grades of Ash, Hard Maple, Shell bark Hickory.

The Beltraction Co., has a large variety of very good products available. We use several, their Silicone spray, Corkor, gasket spray, Sproctor, chain spray, and Instant Tremor, a very good bolt loosener. We just purchased a dozen cans of each of these, for $65.27. Their store price, (walk-in), is about $10.00 more, per dozen, if you are not a business.

The month has been very good, and the pallet production will follow on the next page.

Pallet deliveries, November, Dana, 3,537 pallets, 1,825 of those were PE-1405 pallets, and 1,825 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 450 pallets , on 4 trips. New Haven, 350, on two trips.

There were 5 loads of slab wood delivered during the month, two loads to Baker, one each to Lockwood, Johnson, and Gick.

There was a lot of rain, by the notes on G'Nell's calendar, 4 days in the first 13 days of November, and a total of over 6", during that time.

We are continuing to receive logs from Nichol's logging, and "Hen" is delivering them. We have been unloading their logs. It works like a charm, there are steel stake posts on the truck, and either Homer or myself get the forklift, and use it to push on the bottom log on a side so the posts can be removed, and then, the forklift stays in place until the driver is out of the way. Then the forklift goes to the other side and pushes the load off the truck, with the stakes in place on that side.

Some weather notes for December, the first week, on the 4th, there was 1.8" of rain, snow 4 days of the week, the second week, ice, with a cold night of -7 degrees on the 12th, snow, rain and 16 degrees on the 3rd, Saturday, with drifting snow. By the 3rd, week, there are no notes, the 4th, week, Tuesday, snow and drifting, the plow came the next day, on the 29th, ice and rain, the next day, much warmer, at between 49 and 53 degrees and rain. This was pretty ugly for December, but we worked through it.

Harry has been hauling the logs from the Hook woods, and Hen has been in with a load the first week of December. Ralph has been cutting and skidding the Hook logs out for Harry.

The current electric bill is $41.48. Homer is just beginning to install all of the needed wiring for using the 3 phase power connections. This is being done in the building where we make the pallets.

Homer's bond for the timber license, cost $15.00, and the actual license was $30.00. The Conservation Officers were tasked with taking care of checking out situations, with timber owners and buyers. It actually begins with timber bought after January 1, 1973.

The pallets sold in December were, Dana, 3,050 pallets, 355 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 183 pallets, New Haven, 350 pallets.

The year totals, Dana, 38,992 pallets and tops, Note that I started counting the tops in with the pallets several years ago to simplify the process. Dana also received 12,985 blocking pieces. The Dana, expendable, inter-plant pallet PE-1405 is the largest production, with 16,499 delivered in 1972.

Crane-Edmund, for the year, 3,548 pallets, Bohn, 5,150 pallets, and 6,525 blocking pieces, New Haven, 3,075 pallets, Kitchen Quip, 30 pallets.

The Sawmill spent nearly $14,000 on timber purchases during 1972, and the total footage was nearly 300,000 board feet of timber purchased. We were also working the woods at the DeKalb Co, farm during November and December, with Homer doing the cutting and hauling.

The gasoline for the trucks and the mill were paid on December 28th, and it was $815.29 but I do not know the time period that was for.

There is something that has been overlooked, Homer had purchased a South Bend metal lathe clear back in the 1960's. I don't think I mentioned it. It cost him $1,000.00. It had been a machine shop lathe and they had upgraded to a newer one. The time period was back when we : . getting the first timber at Woodburn. Homer went to a class in Fort Wayne to learn to operate the lathe. He made some practice pieces at the class and received a certificate for the class. He used those skills to make a tool to surface the valve seats in the Hercules engine. There is a picture in the story.

Homer went to an auction and bought a "hit and miss" engine. I believe he bought it with his own money, as there is not any evidence in the sawmill check book of the purchase. The engine is a two horse power "Witte" engine. It operates a "sallisaw" to cut fire wood to length. The saw blade is about 40" long, and 1/8" thick and the teeth look like a standard cross cut saw. It was originally mounted on wheels, but they had been removed from it when Homer bought it. It was equipped with a chain and binder to secure the log in place while cutting. The maximum log size would have been around 14 to 16" diameter. Homer did start it and use it and it worked quite well. He would have paid $125.00 for it.

Homer has removed the home made wood stove in the pallet making area. It did not have enough bracing built into it, and was also rusting out. The new version was made from a 275 gallon oval heating oil tank and Homer braced it much better. It also had doors from a wood and coal furnace, for which he framed their openings properly. The grates were made of double strength pipe he had purchased at the junk yard. They were re-enforced with heavier steel under and lasted very well.

Homer was always thinking, and I think he built things in his sleep. Ha Ha! He was always building and improving on what was already there.

Our cold weather gear did not change from my earliest memory, 5 buckle over the shoe boots, coveralls from J.C. Penney Co., the gray denim type. They usually had metal buttons to secure the front. Also a flannel shirt, and sometimes a hooded sweatshirt. The other thing was of course, was gloves. None of the gloves we had were ever enough to keep our hands warm. Partly because most of the time we were gripping something with our hands. Those items were frequently made of steel or cast iron. It really did not matter, we just kept doing what we needed to do and went on, cold or not. For myself I think I was always cold in the winter and just ignored it. When we were running the Hercules, the sawyer always had some heat. The fan could be set either to push the air through to the front or suck through to the engine. We set it permanently to push air toward the sawyer. In summer, it was blocked by a large sheet of plywood, about 6' in front of the engine.

Most of the time I ate my noon meal with my parents at the house. The others that worked at the mill brought their lunch if they came from any distance. There were some that were close enough that they went home to eat. Our break time breaks at this time were supplied by my mother, cookies, cake, pie, or other items and hot tea or Postum for Homer.

1973

As I begin 1973, I am enjoying writing this story. I am hoping you are enjoying reading it. This is not an ordinary story with dialogue. We only do about 8 or 10 things and they are repeated every week.

I am going to provide some insight into the process of timber cutting. The next 3 pages will make commentary about this subject. They are from our local paper, The Evening Star. They present some different views of the timber cutting process.

193-A

Sallisaw

This is a "Witte", 2 horse power saw for cutting fire wood to length. The blade is the right front.

Jan 2, 73

194

As it was in June

As it is now

CEDAR CREEK Wildlife Project Inc., Rt. 1, Chapman Road, Huntertown, recently sent the above two photos to Auburn attorney John Martin Smith, who shared them with the Star. The peaceful, sylvan scene was photographed in June, but in December...as it is now. The organization said the woodland wreckage is the result of a recent "clear cut" logging operation on Cedar Creek Flood Plain on the Allen-DeKalb Line Road, one half mile east of State Road 327. The wildlife group claims heavy rains and high flood stage did not deter the operation. "Heavy four-wheel drive logging equipment forded the creek to cut on both banks. Logs were dragged through uncut areas...smashing everything. Where the creek banks were high they were bulldozed down." The group urges caution. "Once logging interests are in the woods, boundaries are difficult to follow...and once a tree is cut, it cannot be restored." They ask landowners to "pause and think" before selling cutting rights or the land itself to logging interests. "Consider," they urge, "your own personal values...your neighbor...the ecological and aesthetic impact of what can happen...the adverse effects on the watershed." (Photos contributed)

# Potpourri

Jan 2 '73

By City Editor

Jane Kempf

THE STAR RAN photos of what can happen when loggers or their representatives are irresponsible. I consider myself an environmentalist, and am horrified at wanton destruction of trees in the course of logging. There has to be a better way to get the job done. Not ALL logging companies are irresponsible — and it is silly to accuse them of being so in a broad generalization. Weyerhaeuser Company, for instance, will plant more than 100 million trees in seven Pacific Northwest and Southern states in '73 — the largest annual reforestation project undertaken by any company in the history of forestry. That's about one tree for every two people in the U.S.A. Weyerhaeuser's people say the trees will be planted on 154,000 acres and represents far more trees than they will harvest. Over and above seedling plantings, the company will aerially seed about 30,574 acres in Washington, Oregon, Arkansas, Oklahoma and North Carolina. Company officials believe every commercial forest land manager has a major responsibility to reforest his own lands promptly after harvest to continue providing the ton of wood the average American uses annually. That kind of thinking and action makes sense.

AN EXTREMELY interesting Chamber of Commerce board meeting with industrialists and Jim Morrison, Congressman J. Edgar Roush's Fort Wayne contact, pointed up the old adage that it's darned hard to settle for hamburger when you're used to steak. That's kind of the fix we're in about fuel shortages. We've always had ample fuel and now we're cutting down surpluses and the whole nation faces shortages through 1980. What really seemed to disturb local industrialists is that nobody seems to really be doing anything about it. They took a crack or two at my folk — the environmentalists — because interested ecologists have slowed development of nuclear energy sources. I want my people to have what they need to keep going. Want a federal agency to take the bull by the tail and head it in the proper direction to see that Auburn gets what it needs in the way of fuel...and Garrett and Butler and Waterloo and Ashley energy plants poured into the nation's streams. Want clean air and drinkable water. Somewhere in there, there's a compromise that will serve the interests of those of us who breathe and those of us who just run big plants. But the breathers are going to have to do their share. They can conserve energy by insulating homes, turning the heat back at night, keeping their homes comfortably cool rather than super hot in winter. The industrialists can put their considerable intelligence to researching efficient ways to cool that nuclear plant water before it goes into the streams. The government can get its head out of the sand and find out exactly how much of a problem we do have. I don't envy Bill Ruckelshaus, who heads the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, but I admire his pluck! And President Nixon can put a halt to that ridiculous Washington buck-passing between agencies.

THIS WEIRD environmentalist is also a weird woman's libber. Both seem to be getting a reputation for radical action...but here I sit...allying myself with both groups, but thinking rather independently. As an ecology nut, I want to give industry a break — and as a libbist, I love my husband and family, and like being a girl. But basically, I believe the nation must face up to the fact that it is killing its rivers, befouling its air, and stripping the land of its natural resources without regard for replacement. And basically I believe women are too valuable a resource not to be equally recognized in business and professional fields. Those who don't wish to assume a role in the business world or have the right to borrow money or open charge accounts or be the "head of the household" certainly don't have to. Because I'm a libber, doesn't mean I can...or want to...wrest the title of household chieftan from husband Pete (or that I'm about to let him take over my kitchen).

Lost a pint, but gained some life,
Strolling to the table with Jack's wife.

By Fred Glutz

THINK FRED IS giving us a clue to his identity, but still don't know who he is. Poor me.

IT'S HARD TO believe that 1972 is all gone. It could have been a better year, particularly weatherwise, but lets hope for a bumper crop for '73. May you have a blessed and peaceful New Year.

# Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

This letter is in reference to the two photographs which you displayed in your paper on January 2, 1973, depicting the two wooded tracts.

First of all, a "before and after" scene can not be compared fairly when the scenes are photographed in different seasons. The winter scene (without snow, no less) would not be as appealing to the eye as the early summer scene even if no cutting had been done. Also, it does not appear that both photos are of the same immediate area. This also makes it difficult for a true comparison.

The wildlife group stated "Heavy four-wheel drive logging equipment forded the creek to cut on both banks. Where the banks were high, they were bulldozed down." I assume they are speaking of Cedar Creek since they mentioned the Cedar Creek Flood Plain. Upon a brief recognnaissance of the area mentioned, I found that cutting was done only on the west side of Cedar Creek. No equipment had entered Cedar Creek that I could see.

The group also stated that "logs were dragged through uncut areas .... smashing everything." This statement does not support their previous statement that a "clear cut" logging operation was done. If it had been a "clear cut" then there would be no uncut areas.

The majority of trees present are typical flood plain species ... cottonwood, sycamore and hackberry. These species need a lot of sunlight in which to reproduce; an exposed mineral soil is also very beneficial. Other species which need similar conditions are the oaks, tulip poplar and ash, to some degree. The harvesting recommendations for these species which are intolerant (to shade) is group selection. This method basically is clear-cutting in small patches so as to create an opening ½ to 1 acre in size. Determining factors for the type of harvest cut to be made are: species, location, number of trees and volume and the condition of the stand.

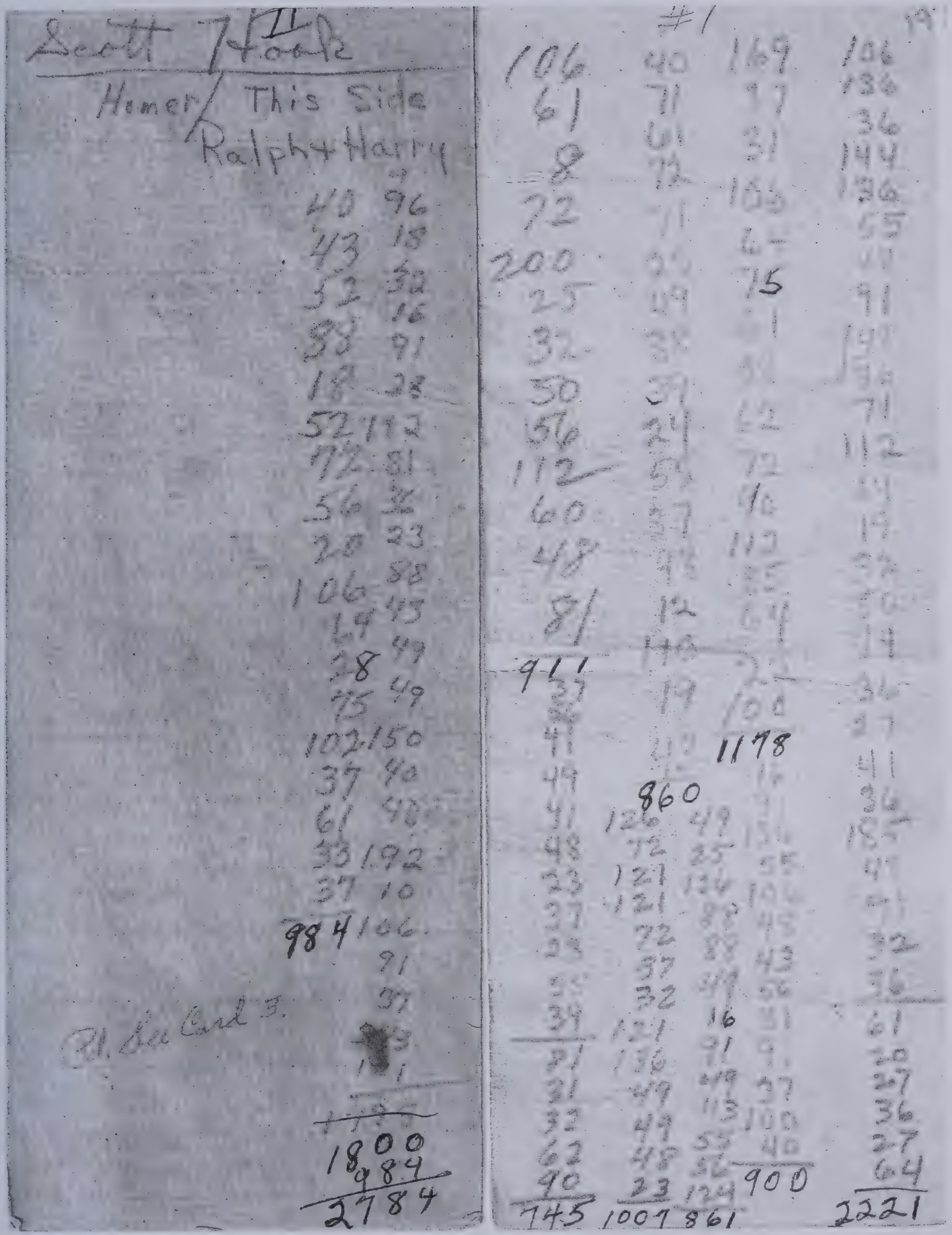
Proper harvesting along streams should be encouraged, in my opinion. This way the trees would be utilized rather than letting them become mature and or damaged and allowing them to fall into the waterway causing drainage problems and wasting the timber resource.

Many persons think that timber buyers. All timber buyers in Indiana now have to be licensed.

Proper harvesting of trees or timber is not bad or a detriment to the land. It is a method to utilize one of our natural resources. And - trees are a renewable natural resource.

Sincerely,
Larry L. Lichtsinn
Forester

I do agree with the comment made by the wildlife group that landowners should "pause and think" before selling timber or timber rights. I suggest that they



This is a sample of the scaling work on the logyard. These cards were the dividers in the staple boxes. they were heavy gray or brown paper. Homer on left, George on right.

# STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA 1816

## LICENSED TIMBER BUYER
## 1973

A 0123

Filing fee 25.00
Certificate fee 5.00
30.00

This is to certify that Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

of Route 1 (Street Address) Auburn (City)

State of Indiana is hereby licensed to do business as a Timber Buyer in Indiana under the provisions of the Acts of 1972, Public Law 190.

ISSUED AT INDIANAPOLIS

January 1 ,1973

Expires December 31, 1973

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURSES

— by Authority of its Director

John T. Castello (Seal)

January 3,1973, Cecil Brown, is growing potatoes, and needs some 1/2"x4x4' long, a total of 249 pieces, which cost him $28.05. Just a normal day for us, set the length at 48", and cut up 249 pieces.

The 4th, Homer sent a request for increasing the prices for all of the Dana pallets, tops, and various sticks. This was to be effective on February5th, 1973. There was also a note on the request that we would "notch" the pallets if they desired that feature. It had a 30 day notice, if they desired to have the notching done. Homer was early on the notching, as he did not actually order the notcher machine, until January 9th, 1973. then there was the build time, delay. The prices reflect the conditions, with the economy at that time in the country. A full list of the current and the new prices is on the next page.

I do not have any checks to prove it but, I think I was sent to the Andersons to pick up oil, batteries, a innertube for a tire, tarps, bolts, and supplies, on the 4th.

The Millard Diehl, West woods is finished, and the balance for it has been paid. As I look back, I really do not know how we kept track of all the logs, that came into the log yard. I do remember being really busy all the time, but it seems like a blur.

I give credit to the McCullough Corporation, because on the next page I am going to show what we bought on January 9th,1973, from the owners manual. It was a Mac 10 series, Super Pro. The saw was a light weight powerful little saw. It was purchased to use on the log yard, to cut the logs to the various lengths. The thing that I really appreciated about McCullough was, the size of the fuel fill cap. It was very near to 2" in diameter.

The signed checks indicate that I was in Fort Wayne and Auburn, on the 18th, International Harvester, parts for the truck, Sears, for drill bits, a drill index for all 29, standard 1/16"-1/2" sizes, and a 14", pair of horse foot knippers, which we would use to pull building nails with. They were tempered and would stand years of torture. Tractor Supply Co, for gloves, tarp straps, repair books for Allis-Chalmers, International tractors,and Case. Coast-to-Coast Hardware, for blue paint, a set of ignition points, condensor, and rotor, ( for those of you in the 21st century), these were the most easily worn out parts on an engine in that period of time. No electronic ignition yet. That took up most of my morning.

January 24th, we needed a new hydraulic cylinder, for the tilt on the CO-OP forklift from TSC.

The check stub says, Paid in full to T.D. Wilhelm, per contract, $1,110.00.

There is a two page contract for the Wilhelm timber, which I will include in the following pages, after the newspaper pieces, and the price increase for Dana. I think this lengthy contract was because Mr. Wilhelm, was aware of the new timber licensing law.

The end of the month pallet report for January, Dana, 4,567 pallets, 3,150 blocking pieces, the biggest month yet for Dana, 23 trips and two days there were 2 trips. Crane-Edmund, 220 pallets, New Haven, 450 pallets.

The Terra-Trac is still running, it has problems, not specified, but the parts cost, $72.23, on Feb. 1st.

Harry is working a job at Cooney,Ohio, off of Ohio 49, on the Orville Hickman property. He has a Edon, Ohio address. The scale card, says, there is a lot of Basswood, in the woods.

Auburn, Indiana
Jan. 4, 1973

Dana Corp.
Spicer Clutch Div.
Auburn, Ind.

Mr. Dave Metz:

We find it necessary, due to increased costs to raise our prices on pallets as follows, effective Feb. 5, 1973:

| | |
|---|---|
| PE1402 | $3.92 |
| 1403 | 2.80 |
| 1404 | 1.57 |
| 1405 | 1.78 |
| 1405-A | .84 |
| 1405-1 | .98 |
| 1406 | 2.75 |
| 1407 | 1.00 |
| 1414 | .34 |
| 415 | .18 |
| 422 | .25 |

If you wish them notched for 4 way entry, add 5¢ per pallet to these prices. We would need 30 day notice to change and start notching runners.

Sincerely,

Homer Abel, Pres.

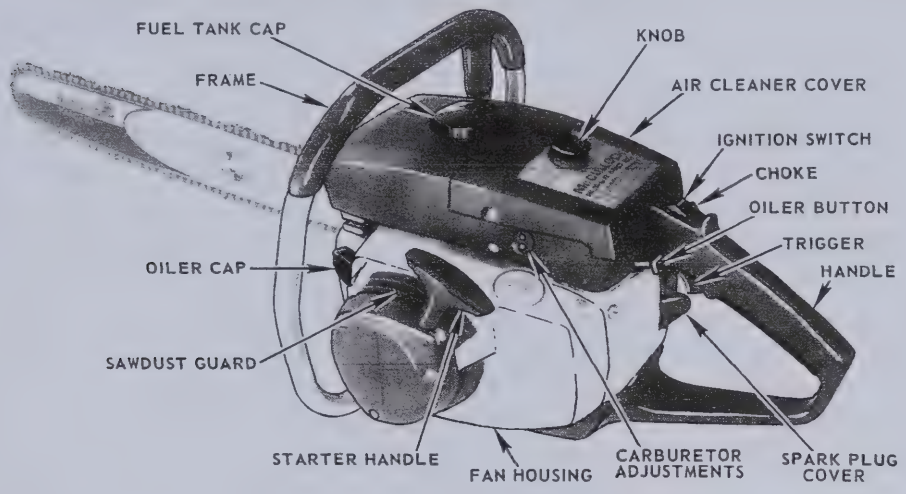
ABEL'S SAWMILL PRICE INCREASE - EFFECTIVE 2/5/73.

| P.O. # | PART NO. | OLD PRICE | NEW PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|
| B 03083 | PE-1402 | $3.50 | $3.92 |
| B 03498 | PE-1403 | 2.50 | 2.80 |
| B 03497 | PE-1404 | 1.40 | 1.57 |
| B 02729 | PE-1405 | 1.59 | 1.78 |
| B 12984 | PE-1405-A | .75 | .84 |
| B 24108 | PE-1405-1 | .88 | .98 |
| B 03108 | PE-1406 | 2.42 | 2.75 |
| B 02730 | PE-1407 | .90 | 1.00 |
| B 05913 | PE-1414 | .30 | .34 |
| B 05910 | PE-1415 | .16 | .18 |
| B 02532 | PE-1422 | .18 | .25 |

Returned Copy 1/13/73 H. A.

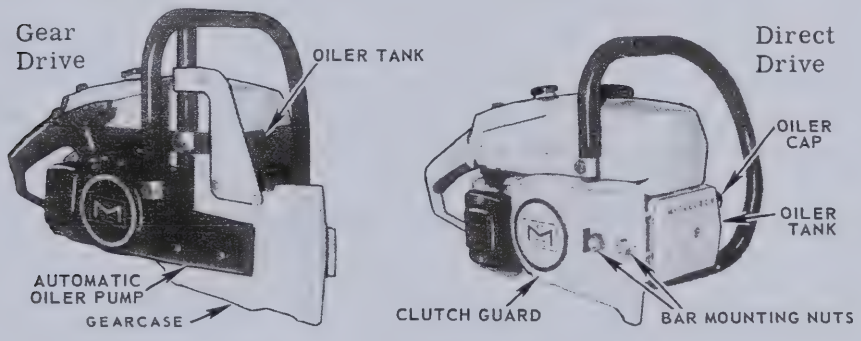
# Location & Identification

McCulloch chain saws are manufactured in a wide range of types, styles and sizes to satisfy all cutting requirements. Before using your saw, study the brief description of these types and styles to familiarize yourself with names and locations of various parts and which of them apply to your particular model.




### DIRECT OR GEAR DRIVE MODELS

On direct drive models the chain is driven by a sprocket integral with the clutch drum, located behind the clutch guard. Gear drive models are usually identified by the letter "G" in the model name. The chain is driven by a sprocket mounted on the sprocket shaft, and located on the engine side of the gearcase.

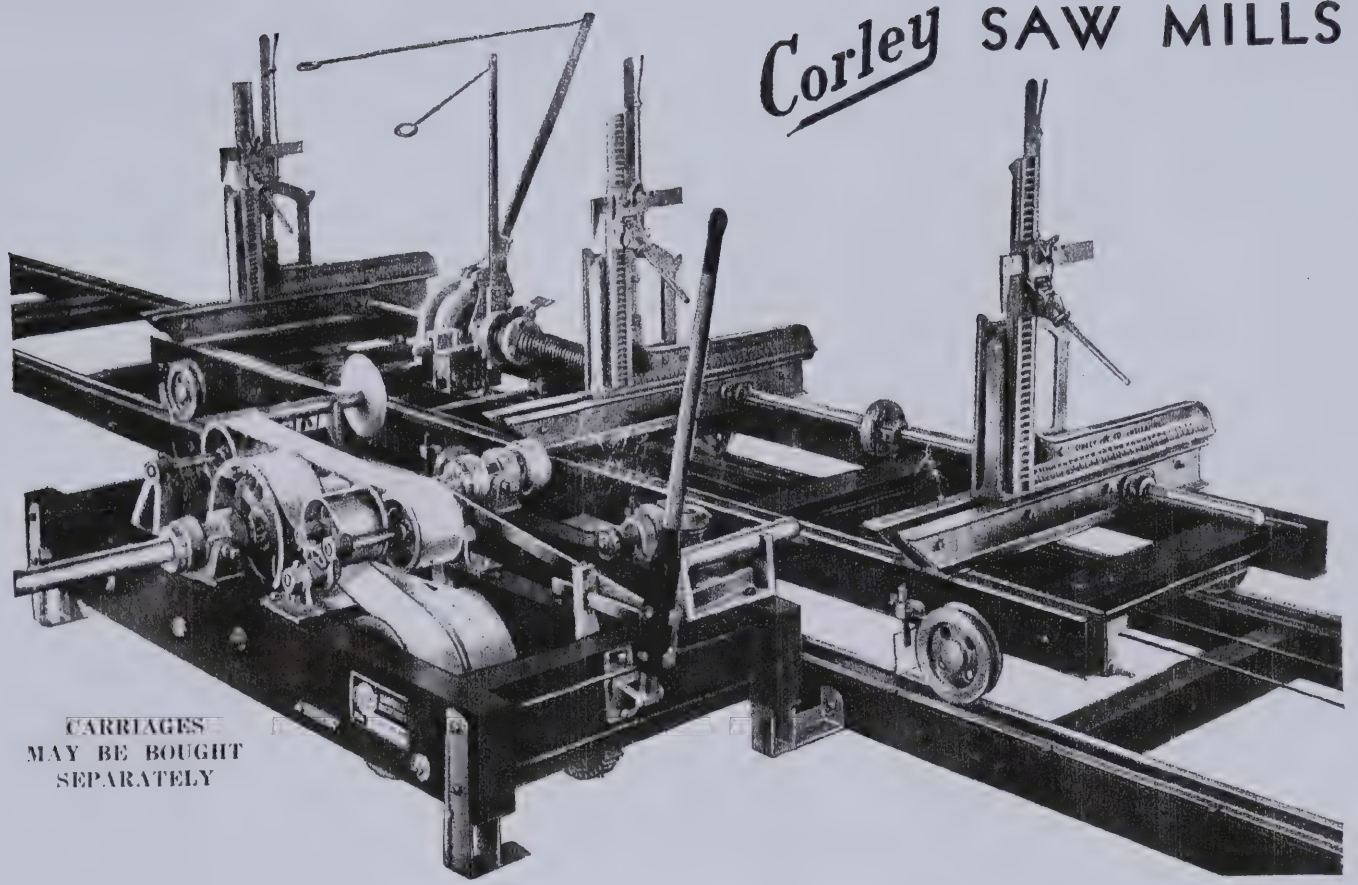


# Timber Sale Contract

Contract entered into this 26th, day of January 1973, by and between Thomas D. Wilhelm of R. D. # 1 Corunna, Indiana, herein after called the seller, and Abel's Sawmill, Inc. herein after called the purchaser, Witnesseth.

1. The seller agrees to sell and the purchaser agrees to buy for the sum of $1,110 under the conditions set forth n this contract all of the standing timber marked for cutting upon an area of approximately 15 acres in section 36, Wayne Township, Noble County, Indiana, on land owned in the name of Thomas D. Wilhelm and Rose Mary Wilhelm.
2. The seller further agrees to dispose of the timber conveyed in this contract in strict accordance with the following conditions: (a) All trees to be included are marked with an orange strip of paint at stump and breast height. (b) No concurrent contract involving the area or period covered in this contract has been or will be entered into by the seller without the written consent of the purchaser. (c) The purchaser and his employees shall have access to the area at all reasonable times and seasons, for the purpose of carrying out the terms of this contract. (d) The seller covenants that he is the lawful owner of the above timber and that no indebtedness or encumbrance exists against the same.
3. The purchaser further agrees, to cut and remove the timber in the conveyed in the contract in strict accordance with the following conditions. (a) Unless an extension of time is agreed upon in writing, between the seller and the purchaser, all timber shall be paid for, cut and removed on or before January 25th, 1974, and any material not so removed shall revert to the seller. (b) Only marked trees may be cut, but the purchaser shall retain the right to leave any marked trees that are not merchantable. Unmarked trees that are cut shall be paid for at the rate of $100.00 per tree or double the market price. (c) Unmarked and young trees shall be protected against unnecessary damage. (d) logging trails and roads shall be cleared with the permission and oversight of the seller or his representative. (e) Care shall be taken to protect against fires. (f) Fences damaged or destroyed shall be replaced to original condition or better. (g) Any liability for any damage or destruction or restoration shall be the responsibility of the purchaser.
This agreement was signed by both parties and dated. Payment of $1,110 was paid that day.

This was hand written and took up two pages. It was not able to be copied.




The last mill we used, looked very much like this, except it was a "Frick" brand mill.

205

J. LEE DEVER

474[illegible] COLDWATER RD. SUITE 109
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46825

PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
Member of Indiana Society of Public Accountants
Enrolled to Practice Before the Internal Revenue Service

AREA CODE 219
TELEPHONE 483-3033

January 30, 1973

Dear Client:

The Indiana Uniform Commercial Credit Code requires that you file the enclosed form each year. The form should be filed by the end of January, however the W-2's and year end paperwork must take priority. You should file the form as soon as possible. The annual filing fee is as shown. The minimum filing fee is $15.00; however, in some cases when charge sales exceed $100,000 there is an additional charge.

Just sign the form and attach a check. We have retained a file copy. If you are visited by the traveling auditor, just refer him to us, and we will give him the details.

Should you have any questions, please advise.

Thank you,

J. Dever

JLD/jd

The new paperwork, Never ends, or do the Fees
(G.A. 2021)

February 2nd, there was a trip to Wayne Pipe and Supply, Inc, we picked up $179.30 of merchandise, and it could have been tools, or pipe fittings. They carried a large variety of tools, and anything related to water plumbing, and structural piping, as well as pipe hanger materials. More for Boiler.

Through his job as a timber buyer for Crook-Miller, Harry Strong made contact with Orrville Hickman. Mr. Hickman had some cull Ash, Basswood, 2 other cull logs, that Harry delivered to the sawmill. We paid Mr. Hickman $290.50 for the logs directly, and Harry received the hauling fee. There was a total of 3,435 board feet of the material. This was not a large purchase, but for the seller, it was better than not being able to move them.

The International truck got a inspection,no repairs, and it cost $5.00, at Carrol's Arco station. We observed that the inspection stations would come and go as time went by. This was because they figured out that it was not usually a paying proposition, for them.

The sawmill bought timber from Gene Wilson, almost all Cottonwood, or other species that grow along streams, or other wet areas. We paid, $1,350.00 for 33,758 feet of timber, at $40.00 per 1,000ft. Homer cut and hauled all of this job.

The week of 2-17, the 3 full time people worked an average of, 63 hours plus, each. The 3, part time people a total of 49 hours.

There was a very large order called in to Ray E. McHugh Co, for all of the materials we order from them. Files, saw teeth, lumber crayons, and other items, at a charge of $386.56. Some of it was on back order. Some came direct from the manufacturer.

The Pine we get for the sticks for Dana, has had another price increase, this time, it was $154.00, for a regular batch. We also got new steering tie rod ends, for the International truck from the Fort Wayne dealership. This indicates that the inspection was a fail, and we got the parts and did the work ourselves. The inspection station would not have had access to the parts while the truck was there.

Homer did a timber cruise, (look at timber), for Robert Mason, on Co. Rd. 35 North of Hopewell, and sent a bid for the timber. For 63 trees, all Oak, with 3 being veneer quality. Bid $1,065.00.

Nichols Logging driver Hen, delivered logs on our yard several times during February. There were 7,608 feet delivered and Nichols logging was paid, $646.68. This was at 85 cents per foot.

This has been a very busy month, and the pallet totals are, Dana, PE_1402 their heavy duty pallet—335pallets, usually 15 or 30 at a time, but on the 26th, we delivered 200 all in one load, in fact there were 3 trips to Dana that day, a Monday. A total of 4,580 pallets, 825 blocking pieces, and 6 days that we made 2 or more trips in one day. Crane-Edmund, 405 pallets, New Haven, none for the month. (4,580) is correct

On March 5th, Ralph Hose finished the Scott Hook tract. His last check for that project was for 11,212 feet cut and skidded, and $224.04. Harry had hauled the timber from that job.

The day has come, the pallet stringer notching machine, from Model Machine & Tool Co, is ready. They were located in Wabash, Indiana. This machine is the first new, major piece of equipment we have purchased. The check was for, $4,750.00. Homer went to Wabash to pick it up.

The stringer notcher is number 50, so there have been quite a few before it. It stands about 34" high, and the main box area is about 30"x 40". It has a slide bar section that makes it so it can accommodate, pieces up to 60" long. The shaft is contained within the main box area of the machine, except for the pulley to operate it. It will require a 3 phase, 20 HP electric motor, which was not part of the purchase. The machine will cut up to 9-1/2" wide and 2-1/4 inches deep. The cutting head has stair stepped cutting blades, making it possible to make the cut in one pass, then slide the runners forward to make the other cut. Our model will cut 3 or 4 runners at a time, and the runners are held in place by a hydraulic clamp system. The hydraulic system also controls the speed of the cut. The reason companies desire 4-way entry is, they can configure their manufacturing system several different ways, with this option.

We borrowed the money to make this purchase, knowing that over a year's time we could make enough to more than pay for it. The note says the interest rate was 12%. Dana will be the most likely company to use the pallets. The Dana pallets that are candidates are, PE-1402,1403. 1406 possibly. Crane-Edmund also, is a possibility.

The sawmill electric bill, is $51.36 this month, and we are getting ready to add the stringer notcher to the load. It will be on 3 phase, as we are now running a 25 HP motor idle, to generate the 3rd, phase.

Ralph finished the Rosner tracts,the long wait was because it needed to freeze up to get in to finish.

We are working our tails off, and Homer put an advertisement in the local paper to see if there is someone willing to help us. The ad was $12.00, meaning it was more than, Help Wanted and a phone number.

There were the regular items that needed attention, lights on trucks, and mechanical issues, at this time, the International truck needed a thermostat, and wiper blades always show their worst in the winter. Mud flaps, and tail lights are a burden in the winter, from the ice and the brush in the woods where the logs are loaded.

Harry brought in a load of Ash from Hicksville. Mr. Deller had taken 800 board feet of Pig Hickory logs to Hicksville, and they could not use them, so Harry brought them to us. In the process of paying for the logs, Homer sent the check, for $80.00 to Mr. Deller, and told him if he had any more logs of this quality we would buy them.

End of month pallets, Dana, 30 trips to Dana this month, 7 times twice a day, 4,320 pallets, with 30 of the PE-1406 being notched, and 2 sample PE-1403 pallets notched. Dana blocking pieces, 1,825. Crane-Edmund, 202 pallets, New Haven, 350 pallets.

I know the farm lumber is continuing, but I do not have a record of it. I miss making note of it. Sawdust loading was a continuing thing also. Probably at least 2 times a week. Over the years, I know we sawed the framing for at least 20-25 lean to barn sheds, maybe more. There was request for fence and gate boards, about every month. It was a small part of the work we did but, it was always enjoyable to converse with the people that bought the lumber.

As I begin April, Homer has been searching for a replacement engine for the Terra-Trac, which he has been using at the woods when he loads logs. He is still cutting and hauling some of the small jobs.

He found an engine, a Chevrolet 6 cylinder, to install in the Terra-Trac. It cost all of $ 22.62, junk price, from Maxton Motors, Butler The forklift had a 4 cylinder engine that had been overhauled before Homer purchased it, years ago, and he also had some major work done. it was at the end of the road. Installing the Chevy engine would mean extending the frame on the forklift, which Homer did.

Homer looked at timber that Gerald Maldeny has available, on Co. Rd.35 Northeast of Auburn, formerly the Winslow place. Agreement was made to purchase it. Homer paid $750 on the Monday, 4-1-1973. Timber to be out in one year, and payment to be made when finished.

As I look at the information I have, we were using about 300,000 board feet of logs each year now. If you count in the fact that ½ of the logs we use are being cut into 1/2" and 5/8" thick material, and anything under 1" thick, that is 1' square is considered as a board foot, we were sawing well above that figure. Homer has to keep locating timber that is for sale to keep up with our demand.

April 12th, we purchased 6 rolls of 1/2"x .020" wide banding, each roll weighed 30 pounds. All of the blocking we sold had to be banded to make it safe to deliver. The banding had a lot of other uses around the mill, besides the blocking. Lumber has a natural tendency to bow if left out in the weather, and we frequently had lumber waiting for farmers to pick up, and this was a good solution for that.

There is a check stub saying, Homer purchased some bearings from Bearings, Inc. They were for the idler wheels on the Terra-Trac. He was going through the whole machine and fix all of the issues.

Clarence Bidlack, had some Hackberry logs for sale to the mill, and there was 1,086 ' of scale, and it paid, $92.31. His address was Grover Hill, Ohio. Homer, and Harry, picked up the logs there.

I have determined that the gasoline bill that was nearly a thousand dollars, was probably for two fills. There were a few times when the cash flow did not allow for everything to be paid. The most recent bill was for $359.23. One thing I know, Homer was always in conversation, with the people that were owed money for products or services. He was extremely conscious of that.

Richard Crow was operating a farm supply service at St.Joe, Indiana, under the name Rainbow Farm Center, and he purchased pallets to stack fertilizer on. I do not know how many he got but we were able to supply him with the Dana pallet PE-1402, for that purpose. His son, Patrick Crow picked up the pallets, with one of their trucks.

Ralph and Harry are working on the last of the 3 tracts at Rosner's, but not finished yet. He also is working the Hickman project. Homer is working, Clarence Bidlack, and Thomas Wilhelm, one load at a time, and paying one load at a time.

The Terra-Trac, is slowly coming together, the Hydraulic system is nearly finished. Belts to run the hydraulic pump, came from Transmission and Fluid Equipment. Homer had purchased some Hydraulic pumps and related equipment at an auction, and one of those pumps would be used in the Terra-Trac.

The April pallet deliveries, Dana, 31 trips this month, and 10 days there were 2 trips. There were 4,369 pallets, 900 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 384 pallets, New Haven, 250 pallets.

Homer has purchased timber from Steve Bowman, behind the Waterloo airport, on U.S. 6. Norm Gerig told Homer about the timber, Steve is Norm's son-in law. Contract will be the next page.

Agreement to purchase timber, between Abel's sawmill,Inc, and Steve Bowman. To purchase timber from Steve Bowman property on U.S. 6- East of Waterloo-(airport). Trees which should be cut because of condition or size- ready to harvest. Smaller or healthy trees to be left. Access along the East line fence, unless owner specifies differently. Buyer not to destroy property or work when ground not fit. $50.00 per M, straight through. Advance today, $650.00. Estimated to be 14,000 ft, balance when done. Signed by both parties. Dated 5-5-1973.

Harry has been working the Orrville Hickman woods North of Edon, Ohio. He was paid for 7,402 feet hauled, on 5-5-1973.

Jack Buttermore, delivered a load of stone for the driveways at the sawmill. It was $60.00. Homer spread the work around and the dollars as well, he used various people to purchase products from, so one company did not get all of the business.

I wrote earlier of a possible agreement between Abel's Sawmill, Inc, and Crook-Miller. Homer had gone to the effort to have a contract drawn up and written, ready to be signed by both parties, but it never happened. The contract was rejected by Crook-Miller.

I have been waiting for the right time to make note of something that happened about this time. We were working in the pallet building, and several of us noticed a hot, burning smell. None of us had determined where it was coming from. In about five minutes, the power went off in the building, and then we knew where the problem was. Remember, I said we were working with a 100 Amp electric service. Well the smell was coming from the fuse box, and there were 2- 100 Amp fuses to cover our service. Both fuses were hot, but one had the paper burned off of it, and then the fuse finally blew. We were pulling more power than the fuses could handle but it was not a sudden overload. It was a continuous overload situation. We were running a 7-1/2 HP air compressor, and the new stringer notcher, as well as the lights, and several more small motors and lights in the mill building. It took a little bit to let things cool off before we could change the fuses. This begins the process of getting a better electric service it the mill.

The lumber for the Pine boards for Dana, have been purchased again. And it is the larger amount, again, meaning there will be an order of 1,000 to 1,500 pieces this time.

Another agreement, for timber, "Agreement to purchase timber, between Robert Mason and Abel's Sawmill, Inc. To be removed within one year. Abel's Sawmill, Inc, agrees to buy approx 108 marked trees, on the Mason farm in Jackson Twp, DeKalb Co, Indiana. Right of way granted to remove timber when ground is fit. Buyer, is responsible for damage to improvements, to property, use reasonable care not to damage other timber. Buyer, not to assign the agreement without approval of the seller. Buyer to furnish cert. of insurance, comp, liability, and workmen's comp, before work begins. Push tops into woods from field. Paid in full 5-15-73, $1,185.00." Signed by both parties.

Homer paid for logs already cut, $230.00, to Kenneth Coburn. and the Orrville Hickman tract is quite large and not yet finished. Harry is working it.

The International forklift needed a new flywheel and gear for starter, as well as some other parts. The total cost was $249.72. There were also some clutch parts purchased, at the same time.

Due to the rising cost of almost everything we are purchasing to operate, we sent price increases to all of our customers. Rather than type the increases, I will insert them on the next pages after this one.

The driveways are getting soft again, and there were two more loads of stone for them. The stone was delivered by Jack Buttermore, and cost $108.76. At this time, he was digging his own gravel from a dry pit on his own property, and had rented a screen-wash device to sort the gravel.

We are still getting Ash from Crook-Miller, and there was a check written to W. Chrisman, for logs from his yard, that he delivered to our yard.

Ernie Hurni, has been working at the sawmill since the middle of April, and I don't think I mentioned it. I am not sure how he got to us, but it could have been through Glen Cook, as they only lived about a mile and one half from each other. Ernie is working full time, plus some overtime.

May is at an end, and it's pallet time, Dana, we only made 22 trips this month, 3,940 pallets, 1,710 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 377 pallets, New Haven, 325 pallets.

We are working with four full time people, with an average of 56.6 hours. One person is working part time at 16 hours. This is as of the June 2nd, pay period. It appears that the rush we saw during the last two months is easing a little. We are now notching 2 different pallets for Dana.

We are again receiving more Walnut shorts from Garrett. The son of the man we originally were dealing with is now delivering the Walnut, his name is Dan Tackels. We paid him $130.00 for 4 trips.

Our accountant, has not raised his price for the monthly check,up of our book work. Thankful.

Harry has been hauling and cutting, on several jobs, Bidlack, Hickman, Sechler, Goldsmith, and Dillman. As well as this, I have a check stub that says, LeReign Strong was paid for logs, at $100, per thousand. The board footage is noted as, 15,568 feet. LuReign is Harry's mother.

"There goes another one," another fuse is burning the paper off of itself, from overheating. It only happens when we use too many motors at the same time. We need to watch it closer. We have to not run the air compressor, the idle motor, and the stringer notcher at the same time. Any 2 at a time.

The gasoline is slowly going up, we are around 35 cents per gallon now. It had been at less than 24 cents for the mill before the Oil Embargo, for the off-road fuel.

We received logs from John Sechler, and Earl Goldsmith. Both were small tallies, footage wise. Another one for 1,624 feet was for logs from Albert Witt.

It was announced in the EveningStar, our local paper, that the A&P Store will close on August 11th. It will be missed. It had 6 aisles in the middle of the building, and a U-shape, around the outside of the interior of the store. My mother shopped there most of the time, as did many other people.

The June pallets, Dana, 3,119 pallets, 450 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 330 pallets, New Haven, 200 pallets.

Homer circa 1973, notice his hand is on a chain that holds the bottom tier of logs, then there were 2 chains over the whole load. Believe the logs are sugar Maple.

Thursday July 5th, Homer enters into an agreement with Richard and Ted Bowser, to purchase timber. "Sycamore and Cottonwood that should be cut, along creek, woods, 5 mile South of Garrett, Indiana. At $45.00 per M. straight through. $400.00 advance today." Signed by all three parties.

On the tenth, there were 2 electric motors purchased for, $113.78. The chain saw Homer uses is in the shop for repairs, and Homer buys truck springs from Lester Brown, for $20.00. These springs will work on any of the three 1-1/2 ton Chevy trucks we are using. The truck and mill gasoline for current period is $323.00.

Harry is working the Mason woods, and it is going well. The weather is dry and there is no damage to the property, except a lot of dust, at this time of the year.

There are no papers for this month, other than the timber purchase, from the Bowser's. The check stubs do not indicate any thing other than a lot of chainsaw repairs, and saw chains.

The St. Joe News, paper notes that the end of July, there will be a celebration in Spencerville, on July 27-29th, to note that the covered bridge is 100 years old. The paper, is a product of the efforts of the Ted Haberkorn family. It is a weekly publication.

The July pallet report, Dana, the rush is over, we only delivered 17 trips to Dana this month, 3,151 pallets, 825 blocking pieces, and 8pieces 1-1/2x8"x12', White Oak. Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, 100 of a new size, 32"x40" for seat link, for bicycles. New Haven, 275 pallets,. Farmers continue to come for farm lumber, I just do not have a record of it. Sawdust for bedding, is a constant in wet weather.

Now that we have timber licensing, all of the licensed timber buyers, receive a monthly typed list of several pages of tracts of timber for sale, as well as timber and sawed lumber, wanted, from some larger mills. It is rare in our area, if there is any timber listed, because our local district, State forester already sends us notices of tracts, he has marked.

I am working completely from the check book stubs again, I think I have another period of time that the paperwork got wet. Repairs, are a constant, and the backhoe, chainsaws, both needed repairs early in August. There is a check stub for $165.18 to Allison Corp for repairs. There is a stub noting concrete was delivered, and I think this was the floor in the former tramp shed on the barn, as Homer was getting ready to use that area for storage. some of the extra equipment he has been acquiring for use in the sawmill, is out in the weather, and it needs to be inside.

Harry has finished the timber at Mason"s, and is going to go get some more at Rosner's.

The big day arrived on August 18th, a Saturday, Homer had been looking forward to the auction of the equipment at the A&P store, and it is here. The A&P store regional headquarters is at Toledo,Ohio, and the auctioneer is from there. Francis Russell, also known as RUSS, had a good day. Homer purchased a hand pull pallet jack for $55.00, and many other items. He bought the hanging hooks for the butcher area and the track for them. Next he purchased the roller system inside the store, that the trucks unloaded on and the store workers took the product off of. Toward the end of the auction, the store office and the check-out stations also went to Homer. In the end he had purchased a total of $262.50. worth of items. The rollers were installed very soon, and the pallet mover was put in use the next week. The other items were put in storage in the barn shed for future use.

One other item that was very useful came from the auction, was 2 boxes of unused "key punch" cards, that the store had used to order items each week. They were approximately 3-1/4 " wide and 8" long. They were cream colored and the back side was blank, making for some nice note card material. These were the early form of computer usage. You sent the cards into the office and they ran them through a reader to know what to ship out. The first card of the group in the box stated, Do not destroy these cards, they are valid indefinitely. Little did they know, that it was going to change very soon.

The down turn in the economy effected us as much as everyone else. Homer was looking at the revenue, and we all had to take a pay cut. My check dropped by $30.00 per week, and the others was proportionately.

Bill VanAuken, took a week vacation, and Ralph finished the Rosner tract 3.

That is all for August, now the pallets, Dana, 3,254 pallets, 940 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 390 pallets, New Haven, 325 pallets.

There is another agreement, to purchase timber,. Homer and Claud Strayer, "Abel's Sawmill, Inc, agrees to purchase timber adjoining State Line Road on Strayer farm. For a total of $930.00, check today, Access when fit, Damages caused by logging, if any, responsibility of Abel's Sawmill, Inc. No Walnut, save Hickory in Northwest corner." Signed by both parties.

Harry is working Rosner woods, still working Crow, and Scott Hook tract. Claud Strayer, sold us some timber, for $930.00, and Ralph is still cutting and skidding logs, early in September, and by mid month, Harry is done with Crow's. Harry D. Metcalf sold us 700 feet of Cottonwood logs, for $35.00. James Linnemeir, had 1,896 feet of logs for us at, $94.80.

Homer went to Nussbaum Electric, and purchased a 1 HP totally enclosed motor, for $101.00. Homer also is still cutting the small jobs of timber, recently at Garnet Grube's, getting 3,695 feet. In the process of the hauling at Grube's, he had a limb hit the windshield of the truck and needed it replaced. Owen glass, in Garrett, did the replacement, $26.00. He is also working the Daniel's woods at this time.

Homer bid on timber owned by Floyd Ferrier, there were 155 trees, and some "x" marked trees, approx, 42,020 feet, and He bid, $3,050.00. He went on the day the bids were opened, and found out that Ed Sevit's mill North of Angola, bid $4,500. and won the bid. It was in his territory, not surprised.

September, pallets, Dana, 18 trips, 3,545 pallets, 325 blocks, Crane-Edmund, 225 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

October begins with a trip to The Anderson's, to stock up on motor oil, batteries, anti-freeze, and other items for colder weather. There was a stop at the tire shop, for $136.68, and a total of $770.86 spent for other items.

Timber keeps coming in, Arthur Trovinger, Willow and Cottonwood logs, $45.00, and Ed Meyer, timber, $750.00. This is at Route 1, Antwerp,Ohio. And, Chalmer Tuttle, timber, Advance of $1,500.00. Trees that should be removed, presently marked with Orange paint stick, $60.00 straight though, when fit to get in. All of these woods, in the first 6 days of October, 1973.

Back to the trip to Anderson's, it usually takes about 1-1/2 hours to drive there, and about an hour to get the items, when there. We usually go one of two ways to get there, either S.R. 8 to Ohio, and take Ohio 18 East to Defiance, and then U.S. 24 to Maumee. The other way, is to go to U.S. 6 and take it to 24, then to Maumee. There is no time difference, between the two ways.

The balance for the rest of the timber at Dillman's is paid for in full. There was some dead Red Elm that was good, and that was included.

The trailer needs another tire, and another is leaking, and Homer got two tubes, for $53.54. There is a slip for purchases at Allisons, and I do not know what we purchased, but it cost, $51.09.

There is another timber agreement, Between Abel's Sawmill, Inc, and Clarence Yoder. "Yellow marked trees, in woods on Hicksville-Edgerton Rd.for a lump sum of $4,150.00. $3,000.00, today,balance within two weeks. Access guaranteed when fit." Signed by both parties.

Millard Diehl, had sold us timber, and now he wants gate lumber. He desires 73-1x5"x16', and 9 -1x5"x12' and 35, tapered fence posts. It has been a while; the posts were tapered the one way 2" to 4", in 7' of length. The other way is 4"x 4" at the bottom, to go in the ground. The items cost him, $95.90.

Harry is working the Chester Davis woods, both cutting and hauling. The mill gasoline usage for the current payment, $239.37.

The payment on 10-27-1973, for timber, of $1,150.00, to pay in full for the Yoder woods, is made out to both of the brothers. Clarence A. and Wayne C. Yoder.

The newest mill building extension, is not finished, because, there was a slip for $87.37 for roofing from Sutherland Lumber Co., on October 29th,1973.

The pallets for October, Dana, 4,410 pallets, and 325 blocks. T. LeRoy Pence signed for the last time, as Dana receiving clerk on the 30th, He had been there the whole time since we began delivering there in 1962. He was the type of man who would make you wonder if he was kidding or serious, when he talked to you. Crane-Edmund, 425 pallets, New Haven, 450 pallets.

November begins with a trip to the Anderson's, to pick up 3 batteries for vehicles, and I would have taken a small truck or a car, because the items purchased were small. The total was around $65.00.

Crook-Miller sent a new flyer, stating that they need Ash and Hickory, because their stock of logs is not where it should be for winter. The prices are attractive, $215 per thousand for Ash, and $100.00 for Shagbark Hickory.

I went to ABC Specialty Co, and had them replace some parts in a cylinder for the forklift, Homer has been using to load the truck at the woods. The parts and labor was $13.15.

Harry has been working Davis, Mason, Meyer, and finishing Rosner job. The Davis and Mason farms were next to each other. Homer has been busy, and the most recent chain saw he purchased, there was not enough cash flow the day he got it, to pay for it with a sawmill check, so he paid with a personal check, and then was repaid when the mill had the reserve again.

The International truck is vibrating when it is running down the road, and in checking it out, we discovered that the driveshaft carrier bearing is worn out. If it is left alone, we will be stranded on the road, when it completely fails. I made the trip to the factory store, and got the new bearing, and installed it. The cost was, $24.21. Over the last several years, I have been doing some of the repairs on several of the vehicles and the mill equipment. It is usually not to hard to do. Sometimes, I do need help figuring out how to go about the process, but I am learning. The good thing is, Homer has had a lot of experience, and if I need help, he will explain what and how to go about a repair job.

The new chainsaw I mentioned last page, is a McCullough, SuperPro-105. It is a professional grade saw, and cuts like a hot knife in cold butter. Some of the saws we have had were middle level saws, and there was a tremendous difference, between this one and the others.

Homer has been talking to Fred Knowles, and made an agreement with him to cut and haul the timber on Schuyler Hetricks property, in southern DeKalb County. Mr. Knowles crew will be delivering the logs to our mill. Homer is starting to back off on cutting and hauling logs, because his body is starting to have more problems with arthritis, and other health problems are slowing him down.

On November 20th, Homer paid Paul Bartles, $125.00 for 2 Cottonwood trees, at $50.00 per thousand, and will pay more if scale is more than he had estimated. While Homer was working the Kline woods, he apparently cut two trees on the next property, that belongs to A.D. Inlow, and he paid Mr. Inlow $21.00 for them.

The brakes on the International truck, need work, and it was taken to the dealer shop in Fort Wayne, to get the work done. Judging from the bill, I believe all 4 wheels got new brake parts, $342.00, for parts and labor.

Homer has been thinking about the repairs that have been made to the Hercules, and it's age, it is approaching 25 years old. The thought is, that if another engine comes available, he should purchase it, to have something else available to run the present mill. That opportunity came, on November 30th, when he purchased a Continental engine. It came from the City of Auburn, street department. It is one size larger than the engine we have operating the original mill. At 363 cubic inches displacement, it would run the present mill, satisfactorily. Homer paid $425.00 for the engine, and a cab off of a old Adams,road grader, which he hoped to renovate to use on the home made forklift.

The story behind the engine is this, the City street department, had heard about a new device to pick up leaves, and they purchased the engine, and a blower, to create suction and were going to use it during the Fall leaf season to suck up leaves. They purchased plywood and a couple of axles, and built the air tight box, except for a vent to release the air pressure that built up. They attached an 8" suction hose, and believed it would work, but it was not right. They did not research further, they just parked the equipment. What really needed to be done, and we would see 15 years later was it needed a 16-18" diameter suction pipe to work correctly. Everything else they had done, was correct. Looking back now, in 2021, almost every community has one of the new version of what they had built.

The pallets delivered in November, Dana, 4,292 pallets, zero blocking pieces, we had lost the bid on all of their blocking. Also lost the bid on the heavy pallet, the PE-1402. Crane-Edmund, 360 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets. And even though I do not have a record of farm lumber, it was still being purchased.

Sowle's Welding contacted Homer and asked him if he was interested in some 3 phase motors, and he was. Homer purchased 4 electric motors, for $52.00. He did not have a direct use for the motors, but to have them on hand was a good asset. Over the years, we had accumulated a lot of items, that were not needed immediately, but we could use either all of part of the item. Some were never needed.

The last loan that Homer requested and we signed for, just had a payment made toward it, in the amount of $717. 35, of which $161.40 was interest. This was 12% interest. But, it is being paid.

Homer had talked to the City of Auburn, after he purchased the Continental engine, and they really wanted to sell the box that had been made for leaf collection, and on December 14th, Homer paid $400.00 for it and it became a storage unit for some of our small items. When he brought it home, it was placed along the road area, East of our 1965 section of building. Across the road from it, sat the old 1947 Chevrolet truck with the Ball and Wood steam engine on it. The front yard in front of the farm barn had other pieces of equipment sitting on it. The carriage from the Wildt mill was sitting there, in pieces, along with other sawmill equipment not being used. We were becoming a junk yard! The nice thing was, we were not near a main road, and there were no other houses close to us.

The cost of doing business, is increasing, and our Duo-Fast staples were going up as well, per a note with our bill for the last order of staples and nails. The new invoice, had increases of between 5% and 10% for their products.

I thought earlier, I had seen the last of the timber from the Rosner property, but Harry is still hauling logs from there. The 3 tracts of timber there were probably the most we purchased from one owner, during the sawmill history. We did purchase a lot of logs from Elvert Nichols. But that was coming from different woods, rather than one owner. Harry has been working the Bowman woods too.

On December 18th, during the night, SNOW started falling, and by 10 AM on Wednesday, there were 3 inches on the ground. All of the county schools went to school, Wednesday, but the forecast was for 6-8" more snow over night. Thursday morning, there was more snow, a lot more, a storm total of around 18". The good thing, it was a dry snow, with the temperature down around 10 degrees. The storm lasted about 32 hours. Thankfully, the wind did not pick up and drift the snow.

To give you an idea of how successful the OPEC oil embargo on fuel has been, the price of gasoline for the mill is now $2.89 per gallon. I mention this because near the end of the year, there are predictions there will not be enough gasoline, to supply the need for Christmas and New Year travel in 1973. Before the embargo, the price per gallon was around 35-42cents a gallon.

The amount of sawing we are doing, has made it necessary to have the mill saws tensioned again, in mid December.

Roger Stebing sold the mill logs, one load of 693 feet for $27.72. The woods have become a mess with all the snow, then by the 24th, rain and freezing rain came. The log yard is a nightmare to navigate, when these conditions are present. The logs slide off the forks, because we do not have a clam type set of forks, to hold them. More time is required for any work in the log yard. You go home at night and are tired and wet, probably cold too, when you have worked with snowy logs. When I got home most nights, I would shower to get warm, eat and go to bed and be asleep in less than 5 minutes.

Ernie Hurni, is going to go to college, and he left our employ on 12-29-1973, We will miss him, but he wants to further himself, and we are in full support of that. We will miss him, till Summer.

The pallet deliveries for December are, Dana, 3,141 pallets, ending on Friday 12-21, because they closed for the season. The yearly Dana totals are, 46,584 pallets, and 19,197 of those were the PE-1405 expendable inter-plant pallets. Dana was using 9 different sizes of pallets and tops. Dana had 3 sizes of blocking through, April, when we lost the contract on blocking. The blocking pieces were, 11,355 pieces. Crane-Edmund, 165 pallets, for the month, and 4,664 pallets, of 7 different sizes, for the year. New Haven, none in December, and 3,225 pallets for the year, in 6 sizes.

It has been a good year, and the only thing that really impacted our business, was the Arab Oil Embargo. I do not think there was a business out there that it did not affect. So sad, we were not producing our own oil, instead of depending on someone else.

1974

1974, begins with more information, Homer kept a diary for the whole year, and I have the check book stubs, plus some of the info about which woods Harry and Ralph are working in.

January, starts, Gene Wilson begins work again, and he and Bill made pallets and Homer sorted material for the pallets. I spent most of the day in the log yard sorting and cutting logs to length.

January 2nd, begins with Gene Wilson, Ted Winslow, George and Homer, sawing lumber, while Bill VanAuken made pallets. We did not all saw in the mill, because there is also a note that there were 3 loads of pallets delivered, 2 to Dana, and one to New Haven. Probably sawed in the morning and delivered in the PM, using two trucks. It also could have meant, that Ted delivered pallets all day, and the other 3 sawed .

I find that there was concrete poured in December. This was a base for the Ball and Wood steam engine, just outside the mill building, and Homer hoped to get the boiler completely up and ready, so we could pipe steam over to this mill and operate the mill. It would mean digging a trench with the backhoe and laying a well insulated pipe to the mill from the boiler. With gasoline so much more expensive than it had been, this was his thinking. It would also mean there would be a full time boiler person firing and adding water to the boiler when we were sawing. This also meant transporting wood to the boiler on a regular basis, because it is now about 100 feet from the mill. He still wanted to operate with steam, even if it meant more physical work.

The 3rd, started with a temperature of 10 degrees, and George, Ted and Homer sawed and cut up lumber, and the note says, made pallets in the evening. Harry brought logs from Bowman's, and from Rosner's yet.

On the 4th, Homer was up early, it says he made pallets from 5:30-7:30. He had an appointment at 8:00 AM. Then he had a grave to dig , so he took the backhoe for that. He delivered pallets at 1:00 PM, He went to the cemetery to fill the grave after the pallets. The temperature this AM was 0 degrees. Harry hauled logs from Steve Bowman's, Waterloo. I started sawing with 2 of the others, and sawed one log, then the metal support work for the mill saw blade guide broke. I got it repaired by 1:00 PM. We sawed the rest of the day and it went well.

The 5th, a Saturday, we sawed all day, Ted, Homer, George, and Bill VanAuken. For as cold as it was, Homer's comment was, the day went pretty well.

Monday 1-7-1974, high temp of 17 degrees, and a wind chill of -20 degrees. We sawed in the morning, and made pallets in the afternoon. Homer delivered a load to Dana, and I went to the log yard, and sorted logs. Sorting logs in that weather, with no cab on the forklift and snow everywhere, is not fun. It is, however, necessary, and I did it without thinking much about it. The bright spot in that job at this time of the year is, you can warm your hands with the exhaust from the chain saw. The down side, there is moisture in the exhaust, so you try to get heat from the muffler guard after you shut off the saw. Bill, for some reason did not come in today, and he did not call to say he was not coming. I see ??? behind my father's comment in his writing.

When Homer went in the house at 9:00 PM, there was a barn owl that flew out of the porch when he entered. It was so close to him that it hit the side of his face.

The next day, he started pallet making at 5:30, and had a load finished and loaded to go out at 7:00. The notes say that we sawed in the morning and made another load in the afternoon. The weather changed, with snow, and drifting in the evening. He went in at 7:30 PM. Ted called in the evening, and said his wife's father had passed away.

Homer's mother has been in the nursing home for about 2-1/2 years, and she is not very well at this time. Homer had been in to see her after he took pallets today. She is 94 plus years old.

Wednesday, the notes say, Homer up at 6 AM, cold, and blowing from the North, instead of the East. I got there at 6:30, dad got out to the pallet building at 7:00, and we made pallets all day. None of the other help was in today. We loaded a load of pallets late in the day, and I took them home to deliver on Thursday. Another note, Homer looked at Gerald Grates trees at 3:30 PM.

Not so cold today, George, Gene, and Ted, and Homer, till 11:00 AM. We all worked in the mill sawing pallet material. George and Homer sawed after the others left at 11:00. Bill made pallets in the evening. Homer's notes say, Ted's father-in-law's funeral is tomorrow, --getting behind on pallets. Homer went in for the day at 7:30.

Friday, a little warmer today. Dad and I sawed and cut pallet material. That would mean Homer sawed with the mill and I off-bear, run the edger, stack the material, and cut when there is a little time. We stopped to make pallets at 2:30 and made a load of pallets, and Homer delivered them. Sawed again after Bill came at 4:00, until 5 o'clock. Homer helped Bill make pallets, till 6 PM. A little note, Jim Provines came to get some dry wood for the Boy Scouts, Troop 174. They were having the Klondike Derby on Saturday.

That is a skills and duration type day, using special sleds, pulled by the boys. It is hard, especially for some of the boys, and harder yet when it is really cold. There is one station, where they have to simulate some medical skills, like a broken leg . After they splint the leg, the victim is placed on the sled and the others have to pull the extra load.

The journal my father is keeping says, that Saturday, the temperature was 7 degrees, to start the morning. Homer and I sawed lumber in the morning, and it was warmer at noon. The snow was soft. Homer delivered a load of firewood to a Mr. Johnson at 4:30. We were delivering wood on a fairly regular basis, but it does not always get in the notes. The last note for the day is, really cold this evening. Sometimes Homer read in the evening, and other times he watched television.

For comparison, on Sunday, it was 5 degrees in AM, and Monday during the day, it was in the high 30's. Monday's work was, make pallets until 3:30, then sawed 2 loads worth of material for pallets, by 5:00. It is becoming obvious, that we jump around a lot in the process, to get the result we need.

Tuesday, 15th, warm today, and we sawed almost all day. Made a few pallets late in the day.

Homer and his sister Mildred, are starting to sort the things in the house where they grew up. There is a need to get the house ready to sell, because their mother is in the nursing home and it is going to be necessary to sell the house soon. There is someone interested in the house and there are about 14 acres of land as well. My growing family would have liked to have the property, but we had just purchased a house in 1971, and can't justify the change at this time.

Wednesday, Homer was up at 5:00 AM, and he and I had a load of pallets ready at 8:00. I have a dentist appointment, and took the load of pallets, and was back at 10:30 and we sawed until 2:00, with about ½ hour out for lunch. More pallets after sawing done, and Homer went to show the house.

Homer purchased a set of good, used barn doors and track, from Mike Dunn for $100.00 and do not know where they will be used. The doors were taken off to build new ones that would handle being covered with metal siding.

Thursday, we sawed almost all day. After some jobs away from the mill, Homer and Ted made pallets until 8:30. Now we are ready for tomorrow.

Friday not very cold, and rained,it thawed out. Mud again. Ted took the Dana load of pallets at 7:00 AM. Sawed till noon, and took a load to Crane-Edmund, at 12:45. From the time the load went to CECOR, until 3:00 we sawed up boards into pallet pieces. Then it was sawmill time again until 5:00PM. Then Homer and Bill made pallets until 8:00.

We worked all day Saturday, sawing in the mill, except for the time it took to make 30 pallets for Dana, they came in their van to pick them up. During this time, it happened like this a lot, where we had to make some to keep Dana going. Homer's notes say, stapled 1-1/2 hours in the evening, to get ready for Monday. We are hand to mouth at this time, trying to get ahead and it is near impossible.

We did not work on Sunday, but there were a few times that Dana arrived, in the afternoon, with their van to get enough to get through until Monday morning. Sunday the 20th, it was so foggy, Homer noted that he could hardly see the buildings along the road on the way to church.

You do not see my name in these notes, but I am there about the same time my father starts his day most every day, and sometimes it is before he gets out to go to work. I think we are obsessed with it. We do not have enough help to cover it all, so we just do it.

The 21st, the temperature is in the 40-50 degree range, and the log yard is a total hog sty. The mix of mud, sawdust, and tree bark is everywhere. At one point, we spread the edgings from the 1/2" boards on the ground to keep from sinking so deep, and it worked.

The 1st, load went to Dana, at 7:15, after starting at 5:00, and another at 1:30. There will have to be another load ready early tomorrow. We worked until 7:30.

Tuesday started warm and rainy, and Ted delivered the load, and then we sawed and made pallets all day. The day went well and we did not have any breakdowns. Most of the time, when we sawed and made pallets all day, it meant we were not doing both at the same time. When sawing, we usually had 3 people in the mill, and a 4th, person was hauling logs to the mill, and taking the finished pallet material to the pallet making building. That fourth person also had the responsibility to change the truck for slab wood, when full, and haul the small edgings out to sit outside. Those edgings were placed on a pallet that had 4 corner stakes, about 3' long nailed to it, and when full, it was banded so it would not spill when hauled out. The material on those pallets, was usually about 4-1/2' long or a bit more, and consisted of material that was not more than 1-1/2 inches wide or tapered. Because the stove in the pallet building was over 6' long, these scrap skids of edgings were taken in to use to heat.

The next day, was a rain drizzle day. A load of pallets was made and delivered to Dana. We sawed in the afternoon. Bill and Ted made pallets for New Haven in the evening.

The electric bill for the month came, and it was $52.00. We have had only one "There goes another one", recently. Homer did share with me that he is going to find out what it will cost to bring 3 phase, 200 Amp service in to the mill, directly from Indiana and Michigan power. He did not say how soon.

Thursday, Ted took the New Haven load, and left the mill at 8:15 AM. I took a load of slab wood to Waterloo, it does not say where , but we had 3 different ones there. Homer cut up lumber into pallet material, and he cleaned up some of the areas where trash gathered. Those places were the log deck, the log turner area, and under the edger, ( larger small pieces) less than 20 inches long. There was also the area around the automated slab wood saw, and it did not have an automated sawdust removal system. There is always something needing to be done.

By the time Ted and I got back,Homer had everything ready and we sawed. Bill and Homer made pallets in the evening.

Friday the 25th, we sawed for an hour and one half, then made pallets for noon delivery to Dana. Then there was a load going to Crane-Edmund. When Ted returned, we sawed again, and some of us made pallets in the evening.

The week is not over, we worked Saturday too. Homer went and got a haircut, and I got the mill ready and when he returned, after picking up the backhoe at the cemetery, We sawed more pallet material. We then made some pallets.

I have an extra note this week, Homer wrote his hours on the side of the pages each day. This is rare, because I have only seen one other week where he did this. He worked a total of 74-1/2 hours,on six days. I probably was right there with him, but I have been on salary for quite some time, so I will have to look at the official time sheet, which says I was being paid for 66 hours, and working more than that, most of the time. Ted was working in the 65 hour range also.

During the night of the 26th, Homer made a note that the wind was so fierce that he got up and opened the doors on both ends of the pallet making building, to relieve the tremendous pressure. There has been a lot of warm weather so far this month, after some very cold times early.

The week begins with Harry bringing in logs from the Rhodes property, along the St. Joe river at County Road 64. It is hard to believe, but he came in with ONE log on the truck. It was a Cottonwood, with a diameter of over 5'. It was an oval log, being 5-1/2'x 6'. It was almost 9' long, and had over 1,400 board feet of scale.

The tree contained 4 more logs that were the same length, and had no knots. Then there were the 7 other logs in the limb area. The last log before the limbs was still 36" in diameter. In all it required 6 trips to haul all of the tree to the mill. The whole tree scaled at over 4,500 feet. If my memory serves correctly, the tree was only about 100 years old. Because it was Cottonwood, it was all sawed into 1/2" thick material for the tops of the Dana PE-1405 pallets. When I come to where we saw the log, I will explain how we sawed these 5 logs of the tree. They were all bigger than our sawmill itself could handle, because this mill did not have a top saw rig. But there is a way. Believe me we earned every board, as we sawed the logs.

The rest of Monday, January 28th, the weather was fairly warm, and we made pallets early. Homer got called to go to the nursing home, his mother had asked for him, and he stayed all afternoon. She was some better by 5:00. I sawed in the afternoon, and Ted got held up at Dana, there were steel trucks ahead of him, and then they were short of a forklift driver to unload him.

Gene Wilson has been working between 6 and 10 hours a week for some time, making pallets. Bill VanAuken working around 24 hours a week. The rest of us are in the 63-74 hour range.

Homer has had false teeth since his late 30's, but he now has an infection in his jaw, and is going to the doctor every day at present, to get a shot of Penicillin. So he is not feeling well, and working very short hours right now.

Homer delivered a load of slab wood in the morning, and helped for two hours in the afternoon on Tuesday. Wednesday,Homer was slightly better, and worked about 3 hours all together.

We managed to get the pallets and the sawing we needed to do finished and delivered, without Homer. I know what needs to be done, when we don't have Everyone in the building, but we are hurting.

Homer was only out for 3 hours in the morning, Thursday and went to the doctor at 1:30. he was told to go home, stay in and lay down. He notes that he has a temperature of 101 degrees.

The January pallet deliveries, Dana, 26 trips, 4,182 pallets, and 1,155 blocking pieces. I notice that there were 2 times this month that the 2nd, shift people came to pick up pallets after our regular work hours. That was not good, but at least they were able to get some of what they needed. It made us more aware of what they would need the next day, so we could start thinking toward that goal. Crane-Edmund, 310 pallets, New Haven, 575 pallets. New Haven is way up on the number of pallets they need, and that is wonderful. There was definitely farm lumber, but I do not have any information.

February 1st, Homer says up at 8:00, feeling some better, stayed in house til just after noon, and then took a load of wood to someone, and to the doctor at 1:30. He rested a while, then went out and helped for ½ hour until Bill came. We are getting it done but it is a toll on all of us, when Homer is not there. I am glad he is starting to feel better.

I have a list of people who have been getting firewood, slab wood, from our mill, delivered. There are 4 in Waterloo, 3 in Butler, 6 in Auburn, 2 in St. Joe, and 1 each, in Hicksville, Leo, Spencerville, Ashley, Cedarville. There are many more that are not on this list. Some were neighbors of another person that lived near them. Most of these, bought wood stoves during the Oil embargo, and 2 or 3 had stoves before that. Wood stoves were a big thing at this time, all over our part of the country. We cut enough wood, that it was not hard to fill the orders. Most stockpiled wood during the Summer, as well.

By Saturday, the 2nd, Homer was feeling some better, and worked 4 hours in the morning. Sunday, really tells the story, because he did not go to church. In the afternoon, he went to see his mother, she was, in his words, delirious.

Monday, Homer writes, cold today, feel better and worked at pallets in the morning, in the mill in the afternoon. Awfully tired this evening, and my right knee aches.

While Homer has been off, I have been doing a lot of the sawing in the mill, and it has been windy from the Northeast. At one point I had an idea, that might make it more comfortable where the sawyer stands. The required materials were available, at various locations in the buildings. Two sections of rope, about 18 plus feet long, 3 large spike nails, and an old section of carpet about 8'x16' long. Also needed were two pieces of 1/2" wood, 8' long and not more than 4" wide. Two pieces of 1/2"x2" x8'. And one 2x2" x16'. The spikes were 7"long and 3/8" diameter, plenty of strength. The rope was 1/4" diameter. First fasten the carpet to the large beam above the live deck, with roofing nails. Then drive in the spikes about 4' from each end of the carpet. Next, fasten the bottom of the carpet to the 2x2, with the strips. Now run the ropes under the 2x2" piece and through the pulleys. Drive in the other large spike, to have a place to secure the carpet when it is raised. Tie the ropes together to get an even pull. It worked remarkably well, but my father thought I had wasted a lot of time. It did help with the wind problem. Note, it worked well for a long time, and hundreds of times up and down. If the logs were about the same size and did not have sharp edges, you did not have to raise the carpet to advance the live deck.

After Homer had been well for about a week, I got a little reprieve, I got to go to The Andersons, to get supplies. Motor oil was one of the things I picked up. I also was in the main store, and got a surprise. Instead of having stamped prices and visually looking at the price, they had installed the first bar code scan system, using hand held scan guns. This was the first time I had witnessed this technology.

On the 5th, Homer writes, cold and snowy, I feel good today. Made pallets in the morning, until 10:00, then he delivered pallets to Dana. Harry had been in with logs, and was going back to get more, and Homer asked him if he could take pallets to Crane-Edmund, and he did. We sawed again from 2:30 until 5:00. He went to see his mother. She was in his words, real good, considering last week. He came home again, and helped Ted saw up boards into pallet material until 8:15.

Wednesday, pallets,till noon, Ted took the pallets, Homer took a load of wood to someone. Then he ordered stoker coal for his mothers house, because he has not winterized it. After he got back we sawed from 3:15 until 5:00. Cold, snowing and blowing after work.

Thursday AM, still snowing, and cold. We made pallets until noon, along with a little sawing and had to fix the log deck. I think the chains were in need of shortening, and it had not been done yet, so sometimes one of the chains would come off the sprocket and then, it is fix or roll logs by cant hook.

I'll start this page by finishing the 7th, Homer went to see his mother, and she was not good at all. He came back home. and used the mill saw grinder to correct the angle of the mill saw teeth. Then he filed the saw, ready for tomorrow. He wrote, it is clear and bright moonlight, at 11:00 PM.

Loaded a load of pallets for Dana, on Friday, and Ted delivered them. Sawed in the morning early and again in the afternoon. Made pallets between the sawing. He went to see his mother, and she was sleeping. From there he went to see a tractor. Ted's mother-in-law, still had her husbands Farmall F-20 tractor and wanted to know if Homer was interested. He went to the Northwest corner of Waterloo and looked at it. She told him she would sell it for $85.00 and he bought it. He wrote, new toy, underlined. It still ran very well, but the rear rims were really rusty, because they had at some point had fluid in them and it had leaked, from the tubes inside the rims.

Saturday, we sawed all day except for loading 5 loads of sawdust. One of the farmers, very much needed bedding. His next comment was, sawing went real good. Harry brought the rest of the logs he had cut ahead, from Clarence Yoder's. He made a comment about Harry, it will go slower now. That was because of the snow. We hauled in all the cut up pallet material we had made, ready for Monday.

Sunday, cold and snowy, went to church, home, lunch, wrote checks for workers. Late afternoon, he went to see his mother, and she was better. Went home, and the road was drifting, and just passable.

Monday, a report on Harry, over the last couple of weeks, he has been hauling from, Rhodes, Kline, Yoder, and he also got paid separate for his trip to Crane-Edmund too. He has been working alone for a while now, cutting, skidding, and hauling. The Yoder job is the large one right now. Ralph has taken some time off.

We started at 5:45 Monday, making pallets, and did so until 8:30, Homer had to dig a grave at the cemetery, and he was back at 11:30. He says it is a nice sunshiny day. He and Ted went to take a load of pallets to Dana at 1:30, and there were 3 loads of steel ahead of their load, so they went to the cemetery and Homer loaded the backhoe and took it back to the mill, after he filled the grave. Ted went back to wait to be unloaded. After everyone was back we sawed for 45 minutes. He notes that after supper, he cut up material for an hour. Even though I am not mentioned much in these notes, I am busy most of the time, either in the mill, log yard, or sorting, notching, or making pallets. Repairs also.

The 12th, we sawed from 6:45 until noon. Someone was also making pallets. A load was delivered to Dana at 1:00, and Crane-Edmund at 3:00. We sawed from 3:45 until 5:00. Homer finished cutting up the fresh sawed pallet material at 7:15. he went in to eat and read the paper, and Glen Oaks called saying his mother was worse, so he went there. By 10:00 she was better and he went home. My thoughts, it is so hard to see a loved one in such hard a time. As I remember grandma Zadie, when she was younger, she had talked about the days when she taught school in the period between 1899, and 1911, she had a great number of interesting tales to tell of things that had happened at school, and it was interesting. She had also committed many things to memory to recite. Those were gone now. It was hard for me also.

Wednesday, began as a Spring like day, but foggy. We sawed and made pallets all day, we made no deliveries, but Dana came and picked up PE-1404, and 1407 , both tops cover pieces, that were used to cover the top of a pallet of material and was banded down tight. This method, was used so they could stack the finished product, before and during shipping.

I will finish the comment from Wednesday, about Zadie. Homer said, his sister Mildred, was there and she was feeding their mother, and she ate pretty well. She had eaten squash, potato, Graham crackers, and talked some. That is quite a deal, from how she was earlier.

Thursday, was a nice day, and we made pallets until 10:00, and made the balance of a load and delivered in PM. We were under the gun to get more ready for Dana, and we made pallets until 4:00, then sawed again. We ate supper, and Homer went out and cut up material for tomorrow's pallets, until 8:00. His notes do not say if I was there or not, but I probably was.

We had another nice day Friday, and we made pallets until Noon. I delivered them to Dana. Ted has been sick and he was not there today either. We worked pallets until 3:00, and then sawed after Bill came. Zadie was pretty good this evening. She ate part of an orange, and wanted to have her glasses on.

Saturday, another work day for us. Cold start to the day. We cut up material and sawed all day, except for loading 3 loads of sawdust. Homer's comment was there is no fresh sawdust, it has all been hauled away for bedding. Harry came in with two loads of logs. It was warm enough to thaw during the day, but it got cold again in the evening.

Monday, February 18th, Homer was up at 5:30. I got back to receiving the higher amount in my paycheck again. Some of the financial pinch is over. The cash flow is good again, and we are moving on. There was a check written for staples and nails, for $602.80. I do not know how many boxes this accounted for, but I do know that the price was up. We made pallets fro 6:00- 7:30, and then Homer had to go dig a grave, he got back at 10:30, and we sawed and made pallets until 2:30. then Homer went to fill the grave, and was back at 4:00, and we sawed till 5:30. I stayed and made pallets until 7:30.

Tuesday the 19th, another nice day, and it did rain and snow a little, later in the day. We ran the mill sawing pallet material until 9:30. Cut up enough material to make a load of pallets, and did that so we could deliver in the PM. Homer went to the Farm Bureau to pick up the staples, meaning that he took the load of pallets to Dana. He returned at 3:05, and we sawed till 5:00. He cut up material till 7:00 and we made some pallets toward tomorrow's load for Dana. He figured some timber and wrote some checks. During the time he was gone to deliver the pallets, he went and signed with Realtor, Erv Armstrong to sell his mother's house and acreage.

The 20th, we started sawing at 6:30, and stopped at 8:30, to cut up material, and make pallets. We had the load at noon. Homer went to Kenneth Graham's to look at his timber. We all worked at sawing and cutting material for 2 hours late in the afternoon. Homer helped Bill in the evening, and they got over 90 pallets made. I was probably working in the log yard, some of the time when Homer was not there. There was never a lack of things that need to be done. Weather, another nice day.

Homer made a note, that the final payment has been made to Norman Rosner. It has been a long run. There has been a tremendous amount of timber from those three tracts of timber, and a fence row.

Thursday, Homer up at 5:30, started work at 6:00, we got a load ready by 10:00, for Dana, Cut up material, and I worked the log yard till 3:00, then we sawed till 5:30. Bill sorted and nailed till 8:00. There was a time more than a year ago, that we had a surplus of pallets on hand, and now we are on the Hamster wheel, trying to get back to that point again, and we are not gaining at all.

Friday, started warm and misty, we delivered a load that we made, after dinner. Homer went and got the backhoe from the cemetery. Homer then checked invoices and I worked at cutting and sorting pallet material. Then I went to the log yard to try to get ahead, on cutting and sorting. The others were working on pallets. Homer's arthritis is kicking up again, he commented he ached all over, and still does in the evening. A note about him. He never complained openly to any of us. But to get an idea of how his arms were at this time, they did not straighten out beyond 90 degrees at the elbow. When he was using a cant hook, he would start with the handle in his hands, and if the log was only relatively heavy, he would give a hunch and get the handle in the crook of his elbow, then another hunch, and it would go to his shoulder, to finish the motion.

Saturday, the 23rd, he notes that it is colder today, around 20 degrees in the pallet building. His notes say he sawed all day, except for the 1-1/2 hours that the starter was down, so we could not start Hercules. The starter spring had broken again, and we had one on hand, but the starter is a beast of a thing, weighing about 25 pounds, and in an awkward position to remove. It says I was again in the log yard sorting logs. In the evening, he notes that G'Nell helped him saw lumber for Donald Johnson, in the evening. It was not very often that she helped with the work. This does mean I went home when the others did at 5:00 or 5:30. Even on Saturday, it was rare that I went home early. I believe the weather played a part in how Homer felt. He says he felt "pretty good today.

Sunday, he went to see his mother in the afternoon, she was wide awake, but confused.

Monday the 25th, he was up at 5:30, and it was cold, at -5 degrees. We worked all day sawing and making pallets. He and Bill notched pallet stringers in the evening. Still only 14 degrees in evening.

Tuesday starts cool and frosty, just below freezing. Had a load of pallets ready for Dana by 7:30, then we sawed nine o'clock to noon. Sawed again from 2 to 5:00, Homer, Ted and George. Homer went to look at logs somewhere, and home for supper. His note says, "Ordered a Troy-Bilt tiller—Don't know!, hope it's worth it." I know why he said what he did. The soil where the garden is, Yellow Clay. The only way to do garden there is to work the ground as soon as possible after a good rain, when the soil is still soft. Because of our work schedules, that was usually impossible, for us.

Wednesday, Homer up at 5:30, just below freezing and again frosty. A load of pallets for Dana, by noon, and he cleaned up in both buildings, mostly to eliminate loose trip hazards, and some under the equipment. Homer, George and Ted sawed until 4:00. He and Bill made 100 pallets for Crane-Edmund in the evening by 8;00. In his "leisure", Homer either watched television, or read. This night, he was reading, "The Mountain Farm". His notes say, it is 11:15, I better get to bed.

The 28th, Nice Spring day, warm. Made pallets, and sawed in the morning. Ted took pallets to Crane-Edmund, and we had a load ready for Dana, about done at 12:45. Homer had a Doctor appt. in the afternoon, and he left for that, and was back at 3:30. We sawed a while, and the electric went off. He notes, that he and Bill hooked up an elevator for the shavings from the stringer notcher. Up till this time, we had been shoveling them into a truck or over to the sawdust elevator at the original mill. Neither of those options worked very well. Both required the use of a scoop shovel, and the walk to the sawdust drag was 20' away. He makes the comment, Think it will work.

Friday, "Yikes, Pallets, pallets, Dana came twice, with their van to get pallets, and we delivered one load." We will need another load tomorrow, that's Saturday. Worked till 8:00 PM, & G'Nell helped.

about the woods:

The method that is being used to track timber movement in the woods and to the mill has changed, and is not as easy. But, here goes. We are still selling Ash to Hicksville, and Harry is delivering it. He is also delivering logs to the yard, and I can only track which woods he is working. In February, he was working Bowman, Kline, and Yoder woods, and hauling to Hicksville from both the woods and our mill. One of the notes Mr. Bowman, noted that there was a lot more timber there than Homer had originally thought, so he got a check he was not expecting. Bonanza!, for him. Homer also noted that Harry said there was still some timber there, and we would get it if the weather got cold enough before Spring. On February 20th, Homer made agreement with Kenneth Graham, that we would purchase logs from his property, that were cut and skidded, so we could load them, at the rate of $80 per M. He is supposed to call when he has logs ready for us. The Yoder woods had Ash that went directly to Hicksville. As is noted by the temperatures I have noted, it was not always possible to get into a woods, if there had been an agreement that stated, "Remove only when no damage will occur."

On the last page I spoke of Fridays work, and that were actually in March. That means it is time for the monthly report of pallet deliveries. Dana, 3,772 pallets,this is not as many as some months in the past, but we were struggling to get it done. But, we are doing this with 3 full time people and the two part-time persons, who are working about 28 hours total a week. Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets.

Saturday March 2nd, another Spring day, and we worked from 6 AM, till 8 PM. , only stopping to eat, and break. Ted worked in the morning, and was not feeling very well, so he left at noon. Bill was there all day. There is supposed to be a new man on Monday, John Mettert.

Sunday, dad and mom came to our house for dinner after church. They spent part of the afternoon, and then we all went to see Zadie at the nursing home. She was awake, and seemed unable to focus on us physically, but was able to talk and answer us.

Monday it rained in the morning, Ted is still not feeling well and did not come to work. John came and started learning by making pallets with some of us. Homer's final note for the day, Rained cats and dogs, bet it rained 3 inches.

Tuesday the 5th, Homer went to look at trees at a Mr. Horstman's, it was too wet, and he came back. Ted is still sick, and taking medicine. Probably 2-3 days yet before he is back. We sawed and made pallets, delivered a partial load at to Dana in PM. Homer worked 12 hours today. He checked some invoices and was in bed by 10:30.

Wednesday was a nice warm Spring like day. This weather is not good for working in the woods. Too warm and wet, can cut some but can't skid out. Glad we have a reasonable stockpile of logs at the mill. John did not come today??? Neither did Bill???. Gene Wilson was here, Homer and George, too. We sawed in the morning, and just dad and myself in the afternoon. We made no delivery to Dana, will have to "Hurry" in the morning. Ted called and said he would not be in tomorrow.

Thursday, nice, very warm, Homer did not wear his "longies" today. We had a load ready for Dana about 10:00, and I took that load. Bill has been working on the school house building project in the afternoons and his supervisor was sick, so he was there after lunch. Sawed after lunch, until 5:00. Homer and Bill worked making pallets till 8:00.

Friday March 8th, started with cool temperatures. Dad and I made pallets in the morning, and I delivered them after 10:00. Homer delivered firewood to Burkmier's. Bill came and we sawed in the afternoon. Harry got a backhoe, and Homer wanted to see it, so he went and also delivered Harry's check. Veneer buyer called and is coming tomorrow.

We worked in the mill, sawing Saturday. It was just dad and I sawing. Bill had another commitment, and did not come in. Linsey Presley came and brought the veneer buyer. They marked the veneer that they wanted. Warren Carnahan came and talked and helped some. He has been working for Holman farms North of St. Joe, and he will be starting with us again on March 18th.

Homer makes the note that he went up his mother's house to check things out and brought a few things home. His sister Mildred has been there and has taken a few things, as well. The process of sorting & deciding what they really want, is somewhat taxing. Both of them already have a full house.

It's Monday again, and it is cool. We sawed and made pallets in the morning, does this sound familiar? I hope this is not getting too boring. Ted is back, and he delivered pallets in the afternoon. As I read this journal, I find things I did not remember. It is now certain, Homer had enough veneer logs on the yard, that he sent out requests for bids. Today Terry Master, a buyer, came to look and bid on the veneer logs. His bid was better than the one on Saturday, and Homer sold him the logs.

I marvel at the amount of things my father was juggling on a regular basis. His planning, and dedication to his business, was really not something you saw if you were not there. He taught Sunday school, dug graves at the cemetery, repaired equipment, bought timber, took care of the day-to-day things that happened at the mill, worked more hours than he really wanted to. This was not all there was, yet he still was even keeled and almost never got seriously upset when things were pressing. At the time, I was a sawyer, when I needed to be, worked in the log yard, cutting sorting and marking logs. My other jobs were making and sorting pallet material, cutting pallet material to length, servicing the mill equipment, as well as making repairs to flat belts, lubricating, sharpening chain saws, and the mill saw, loading sawdust, writing checks when needed, and much more. As time goes on, I do less of the deliveries, and become more focused on honing the skills I have to do to make it all flow better.

Homer noted that it was 32 degrees and raining by bed time. Earlier in the evening, he and his sister met at Zadie's house to talk and determine what to do with the things they did not want.

Tuesday, Homer says, he was at the doctor's at 8:00, it appears, he was having some kind of infection again, because he got a shot of Penicillin again. He stayed in after he got home for 2 or 3 hours, then he came out and worked the rest of the day.

Wednesday begins with being cool, but a nice day. The ground was frozen. We had a load of pallets for Dana, by 10:00. We cleaned up around the mill and sawed after noon. In the evening, he and Bill notched stringers. Then the 2 of them made about 40 PE-1406, and Dana sent a van to pick them up, about 6:30. The last note about the day, Homer helped Bill with a car spring, getting it fixed.

Thursday, the 14th, the ground is frozen, early. Harry brought 3 loads of logs from Klines. We made pallets in the morning, and sawed in the afternoon. Homer cut trees for Bill Swartz, between 5-7 O'clock. John Mettert did not come in, again, today.

Ralph is working the Kline woods, and Homer has worked an agreement with Gerald Grate, for timber. Mr. Grate will get $450.00, for 26 trees, and Homer will saw him 500 board feet of lumber, from our logs. Harry is hauling the logs that Ralph cuts and skids. He is also finishing the Yoder job. The Swartz logs that Homer cut a few days ago, were for the sawmill.

Friday, March 15th, was a nice day, and then it rained and snowed later in the day. We sawed pallet lumber and made pallets all day. Saturday, Ted and Homer made pallets till 10:00, Bill made pallet tops. Then, we sawed until 4:00. Homer went to see if he could get any of the Swartz logs, and he managed to get 3, before deciding he would get stuck in the mud if he continued. The rest of us worked in the pallet building, either notching, or making pallets.

Sunday, Homer got up at 7:30, and the phone rang, it was Dana, they needed pallets, and Homer went out and made 30 pallets, which Gerald Goings came and picked up at 8:20. After lunch, Homer went out to see what was going to be needed on Monday, and whether there was material to make it. Late afternoon, Homer went to see his mother, and he notes that she was pretty good. After supper, he wrote the checks for the employees.

The 18th, nice spring day, one load of pallets to Dana, at 8:30, and most of another load at 1:30. John did not come in, and Warren called , he has a bad cold, and not here. We sawed in the afternoon, and while we were sawing, the veneer hauler came, and Homer loaded him. He had a 40 foot tractor-trailer, and on the way out he got stuck, "soft", at the tight curves on the way out, and Homer and Bill helped him get out.

When Warren was with us the last time, we had him sawing with the mill, and he was doing real well, and it has now been 5 months, since, and he picked right back up where he left off. He is doing very well. It is nice to have someone else besides Homer and myself that can saw with the mill. Homer delivered firewood, in the evening. Homer notes, that he moved material into the building, and arranged it for making pallets tomorrow morning. Tuesday, went quite well.

We worked at pallets and sawing, till 9:00,AM, Wednesday, Homer went to look at Buford Brand's timber and made a bid of $4,500, will not know yet about the bid. Homer helped finish the Dana pallets after he got back. We sawed in the PM. Getting ready for a load for New Haven tomorrow.

Thursday, We made the New Haven pallets, and Homer delivered them. While he was out, he picked up the staples, and a pulley bushing, $12.74, for the log turner pulley. He returned at 5:30, then delivered a load of firewood to St. Joe, to Baker's.

Friday,the 22nd, a nice day, Sawed till 11:15, finished the load for Dana, PM delivery. Sawed again, in afternoon. Bill did not come in, He got caught eating at Burger King, while on the time frame to be at the sawmill, on work release. It cost him 2 hours. Homer loaded part of a load of shavings for someone to use as bedding. I worked on the lights on the truck, a constant battle.
Saturday, nice cool day, with some snow in the afternoon. We made pallets until 10:00, then sawed the rest of the day. Homer sharpened the mill saw after supper, ready for Monday.

Sunday, Zadie, pretty good. An evening dinner at church, and the quartet that I am part of sang. Kent, Johnson, sang the Bass, I sang the high Tenor, Dennis Williams, the lead, and piano,and Ray Osteen, the Tenor. We were "The Fishermen", and we sang mostly Southern Gospel. I can't speak for the group but, Homer said, in his notes, our singing was "Very Good" We were together for 18 months.

Monday, March 25th, begins with a temperature of 3 degrees above zero, quite cold for this time of the year. We sawed and made pallets. Took 1-1/2 loads to Dana. I did not get to the mill until late today. Homer helped Bill with the Crane-Edmund pallets in the evening.

The 26th, 3 degrees again, this will set up the woods, so Harry can get logs again. Ted took the pallets to Crane-Edmund at 8:00. We sawed till 10:00, then Homer went to look at trees at Robert Van Leuven's, which is just 2 mile west of the mill. Homer got home in time to load the Dana pallets. Then we sawed till 5:00. Homer went to look at Rickman's trees at Waterloo,after 5:00.

Wednesday, a load to Dana, sawed and made pallets the rest of the day. Homer went to look at trees at Ben Graber's.

Thursday, cold this morning. Same old, same old, pallets and saw material. Gave a bid of $2,150 for the Graber trees, at noon. That is when the bids were due. We sawed in the PM. He and Bill notched pallet stringers in the evening. It started raining about 5:00 PM. Friday was more of the same, pallets and saw material. Homer went to see Zadie, and she was pretty good.

March 30th, Homer was up at 6:00, and Warren and Homer started a big log at 7:00. When Homer says a big log, that means it is at least 3-1/2' in diameter. I got there at 8:00. The 3 of us sawed all day. Ted was off today.

Harry, has been working the Kline, and Strayer jobs, and Ralph is cutting the Kline woods.

The end of the month has come, and the pallets delivered are, Dana, 4,146 pallets, 970 blocking pieces, and Dana came to the mill 4 times to pick up some, to get through until we brought a load in for them. We made a couple of sample pallets for Dana, that were 32"x 40" in size this month, too. Crane-Edmund, 250 pallets, New Haven, 400 pallets.

April 1st, We had a load ready for Dana by 10:00, and Homer took it. He then went and got the truck inspected, it was okay, no repairs needed. We sawed in the afternoon, Bill nailed in the evening.

Tuesday is noted as a nice Spring day. Homer helped with sawing and pallets til 10:00, then went to town and got a haircut. He was ready, and had the barber, Roy,"Peck" Hampshire cut off his beard. He notes that it feels strange to not have the beard. He got back in time to help saw in the afternoon.

Wednesday, dawned a regular April day, warm and showers. We sawed all day, no pallet making or deliveries. This was an unusual day, to saw all day, but it was what we needed to do. Get Ahead! In the evening, Bill made pallets. There have been tornado warnings all day, and all around us, but not DeKalb County. About the time Homer was ready to go to bed, the television said there were 70 dead from tornadoes.

The Thursday note is brief, pallets, 2 loads to Dana, and one to Crane-Edmund. Not much sawing.

Friday, we sawed and made pallets, I know, it's redundant. I have the checkbook, and Homer's daily notes, with no paperwork stating which bills came in or when. You do get a good view of the process, though. One load to Dana, and sawed in the PM. Bill not here, and George left at 3:00, for an appointment. Homer loaded 2 loads of veneer, in the morning, from 7:30- 10:00.

Saturday April 6th, Warren, Ted, Bill and Homer sawed and made 1 load for Dana. Sawed in the afternoon, and George came 1:00, and he sorted , delivered firewood, and worked in the log yard. Homer's words, We really had a good day. The day was a nice Spring one. Harry started on Wendall Cooks Cottonwood, delivering 2 loads today.

Sunday was nice, My mom and dad have had our children since Friday PM. Homer says they really enjoyed them. Our son Michael is almost 7 years old, Marie will be 5 in June, and Melissa was 2 in January. Homer and G'Nell went to see his mother, and she was not too good.

Monday it was 32 degrees, with a stiff breeze, making it feel like near 0 degrees. The load of Dana pallets left at 10:30, we sawed in the afternoon, and Homer helped Bill in the evening, until 8:00.

April 9th, cold start to the day, Pallets to Dana, and a load to New Haven after lunch. We sawed in the afternoon, and later, Homer went to Yoder's, and drove out the skidding tractor, a Allis-Chalmers WD, and the forklift, the Home-made unit on the rear of a Cockshutt 30. They both started after sitting since November. Part of the reason they started, was, we were still able to get and use gasoline that had lead in it. That gasoline did not spoil nearly as fast, and it usually did not clog the carburetors. It would stink if old, but that was all.

Wednesday, the ground is slightly frozen this morning. Sawed early, and then made and delivered Dana pallets at 1:30. Homer helped me in the log yard cutting and sorting logs, he was using the forklift, mostly, until 3:00. Then Homer took the truck and trailer, and went to pick up the two tractors at Yoder's. He was back by 6:00. He then went to his mother's house to board up some windows.

The 11th, Pallets Dana, and New Haven today. Homer delivered fire wood to Mack's. Homer made a note, "Harry hauling like mad". A nice day, some sprinkles, this morning. There are 4 logs yet at Kline's at Newville. Homer bought Bill Larowe's timber. The contract, Agreement to buy timber. 174 marked trees, guaranteed $70.00 per thousand. $2,250 today, minimum, with balance, if any when done. Timber to be removed when fit. Sawmill responsible for damage to property. Tops to be kept in woods. One year time to remove trees. Allowed a track, from bridge over ditch to woods at the closest point. Signed by both parties. There is a note at the bottom of Homer's copy of the contract, that says, he over estimated by $298.19, on the board footage, it ended up being 27,883 board feet, and he thought there would be 30,000 feet.

Friday, the 12th, "Pallets, pallets, pallets- Well maybe, get enough some time." Delivered to Dana. Worked all day. And that is all he wrote on that day. The Squirrel is getting tired, My words. (Homer)

Saturday, we sawed and made pallets all day. Dana sent a man out to get the PE-1407 pallet tops. Homer notes that he and mom came to my house to celebrate Michael's birthday, which is tomorrow. On their way home, they stopped to see his mother, "Not good at all."

Sunday morning at 4:00, The nursing home called, Homer's mother, Zadie had passed away. It is Easter morning, Michael is 7, and The TOMB, has been opened, Jesus is alive. Praise GOD. I am sad that grandma is gone, but there was no quality of life, and she is with her Heavenly Father.

Homer worked till 10:00 on Monday April 15th, then loaded the backhoe and dug the grave for his mother. He would be in and out of the mill for the next week, I got the responsibility to make things happen, with the help of the others. The visitation at the funeral home was Monday and Tuesday afternoons. the funeral was Wednesday. I was out on Wednesday PM, for the funeral.

There was a load delivered to Dana the first 4 days of the week, with a total of 870 pallets to Dana. Mom and dad were gone to G'Nell's mother's in Ohio Wednesday and Thursday morning. Homer was back on the 18th, at 2:30, and helped sort logs the rest of the afternoon. I went + got G'Nell's mother + took her back after Funeral.

Friday, began as a beautiful day, and we sawed and made pallets. Warren started helping the Holman family farm, again this evening.

Saturday, Homer finally went to get the Farmall F-20 at Ted's mother-in-laws. He also looked at logs at Kempf's. Ted and I worked in the mill and the pallet building.

We worked at pallets, and sawing during the week starting on the 22nd, and delivered 6 loads to Dana. Homer worked on a blower system for the stringer notcher, because the chain drag did not work well enough. During this week, there were many projects ongoing. Homer purchased logs from Fred Knowles, and looked at and purchased some that had been damaged in the tornadoes, near Hogback Lake. On Thursday, Homer went to Hamilton and brought back 3 loads of logs from the purchase at Knowles. Harry is now working the Cottonwood at Ione Wilson's, South of Auburn, and he came in with 2 loads. Friday, the 26th, a beautiful day, sunny and warm. Homer hauled 6 loads from Hamilton, from 6AM to 9:00 PM. When I was not busy with the pallets, managing the various projects around the mill, I was busy scaling logs on the yard, because this same day, Knowles hauler brought a load from Monroeville, Indiana, and Harry brought in 2 loads too. All of a sudden, We Have Logs!!! That was probably a record for the number of logs received in one day.

Saturday, Homer hauled 4 loads of logs from Knowles, he also took the Check to Cy Kline for the rest of the logs from his woods.

Monday the 29th, a load left for New Haven at 6:30, Dana at 9:15. Homer went for another load of logs, and was back at 2:45. Homer made pallets the rest of the day. After supper, he made some pallets for Dana, for delivery tomorrow. I have been given the job of assistant manager of the pallet material sawing, and the pallet making. Homer has stepped back and is letting me see if I can do it. So far, it is going pretty well.

Tuesday, pallets till noon, 2 loads to Dana, We sawed in the afternoon. Homer cut pallet material from the milled lumber, and I worked in the pallet building with the others.

Pallet production for the month is, Dana, 24 trips, 4,664 pallets, 420 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 253 pallets, New Haven, 200. There is still a lot of farm lumber being sold, but I do not have any record of it.

The Strayer woods is finished, and there is a note that it turned out better than expected, meaning a little more footage than estimated originally. The logs from tornado damage, have been delivered.

It has not happened for a while, but, "There goes another one", a 100 amp fuse burned the paper off.

Wednesday May 1st, a nice day, Homer delivered pallets to Crane-Edmund, and went to talk to Indiana & Michigan Electric Co, about the costs and if it was feasible to get 3 phase power to the sawmill. I&M had their office at the West edge of Butler, Indiana at that time. That was almost right next to Crane-Edmund. At that time Homer knew that it was cheaper to purchase 3 phase motors, and he also knew that it was a long shot, whether they would do it. But he had to ask. The engineer that he needed to talk to was Fred Renchler. Homer knew that even if they decided they could do it , there would be quite a cost for us to pay. So the ball started to roll, slowly.

When Homer got back he helped us saw from 1:00-3:00. Then he left to go do other errands. Around 4:30, he went to get logs.

Thursday, Homer went to get more logs, and we sawed and made pallets. He made another trip to get logs, and stopped to look at timber at Mertz, South of Pleasant Lake, Indiana.

Friday, one load of pallets to Dana. Homer had 2 graves to dig at the cemetery, he filled one of them and I filled the other one. I filled the grave because Homer went to a timber bid opening, and he lost out by $50.00, but he went to Brands, and was successful there, while talking with Mr. Brand, they came to agreement.

Buford, and Larry Brand, and Abel's Sawmill, Inc. agree to sell and buy timber respectively. Approximately 168 marked trees, and no more. Care is to be taken not to damage other timber more than unreasonable. Timber to be removed in 1 year. The buyer is to repair or settle for any damage to fences etc. Buyer not to assign this agreement. Payment in full today, $5,000.00 Timber license # A0123. Signed by both parties.

Former employee, Clifford Billow, has had hip replacement, and Homer went to see him, and he is getting along well.

Saturday, Homer went to the Dickerhoof auction, and his real intention, was to see if he could purchase a Cat, D-4 bulldozer, but it went too high . He did purchase some small items, for $39.75.

Jim Provines is working for us again, he started on the 29th, of April. Monday, the 6th, Homer notched stringers, and Ted and Jim, made pallets. Warren is farming with Holman's again. Homer took the pallets to Dana, and went to get more 100 Amp fuses, a hot commodity, ha, ha. Homer is also working on the details of settling his mother's estate. When he got back, we all were working on pallets or helping saw lumber.

Tuesday the 7th, it is cold enough that we built fire in the stove in the pallet building. Pallets to Dana, Homer and Jim nailed. I went to the log yard and cut and sorted logs. After noon, Homer went to get more logs. The rest of us, sawed and cut up pallet material.

Homer found a Herbal Doctor, that is helping him concerning his arthritis. That is good, and Homer is not presently making any notes about how he feels.

Wednesday, raining and cold, built fire again. Finished Dana by 10:00, made more pallets, and cut up material till noon. The rest of us sawed in the afternoon. Homer and G'Nell went to Fort Wayne, to get some V-belts and pulleys, and some other supplies.

Francis Dulle and his wife came over to the house to visit with Homer and G'Nell, and at the end of the conversation, Francis said he needed some fence posts. It does not say how many.

Homer went to the cemetery, and found out someone had stolen the lawn mower. So, on Thursday, he went to pick up a new one, and after he got it, he mowed the house property where his mother had lived, and then took the mower to the farm-sawmill property, until repairs and security for the cemetery building could be done.

Thursday, we sawed and made pallets, and there were no deliveries of pallets. Homer went to finish business about the cemetery, and was gone a good part of the day.

Friday, the 17th, We sent a load of pallets to Dana early, and made up another load for after noon. Homer was gone the rest of the day, and we mostly sawed, and made a few pallets.

Saturday, Homer worked all day cutting material to length. I worked in the log yard, and Ted was there and made pallets. Sunday, Homer and G'Nell went to see the building trades house, that Bill has been working on during the morning of each school day.

We worked pallets on Monday, and Homer delivered the load to Dana, and then his cemetery work on foundations for stones, required his time and when he got that finished, he took the load to New Haven. He was back by 2:30, and helped us in the mill. In the evening, Harry came in with a load of logs, and he pushed them off with the fork lift.

(↑HOMER)

The 21st, was nice in the morning, and I delivered pallets to Dana, early, then Ted took the 2nd, load to Dana, before noon. Then we loaded a load for Crane-Edmund, and Ted took those. Homer made pallets till Ted got back, then he went to get logs at Gerry Souder's. It rained hard after he got back with the logs, and he did not go back after the forklift.

Wednesday, nice, but cloudy, We worked in the mill cutting material, cleaning up and getting ready to saw again. In the evenings, Homer is still working inside the newly constructed building over the boiler, on lighting, and other small jobs. He worked on invoices,a looked over other paperwork in the later evening.

The starter for the forklift came in and Homer went and picked it up, installing it later in the day. It cost an additional $83.68, but was needed . There were 2 trailer tires and tubes, purchased and installed recently. The trailer had 2 axles, and was being used in hard service, for cemetery and for hauling the tractors Homer used in logging. Between brush and snag trees, and the turning in rough terrain, they wear out quickly.

Thursday, there are no notes, and Friday, Homer had other commitments, and the rest of us worked in the mill and making pallets. Saturday, I worked in the log yard and got the mill ready for the work Monday.

Monday, More pallets made, and I changed the oil in Hercules, and service the rest of the engine. Homer worked in the log yard, the others made pallets and cleaned up, in both buildings. In the evening, Homer loaded Walnut lumber we had sawed for Marion Shultz.

22821 B Drive N.
Marshall, Michigan 49068
May 15, 1974

James C. Moore and Lucile Moore, of Marshall, Michigan agree to sell to Abel's Sawmill Inc. of Auburn, Indiana the following property located on the Wildt farm in Kalamo Township, Eaton County, Michigan:

1 hydraulic cider press
1 screw " "
1 apple grinder
shafting and pulleys except two or more shafts and pulleys reserved by James C. Moore

Homer Abel, of Abel's Saw Mill agrees to pay the sum of four hundred dollars ($400.00) for the above-named items.

He also agrees to remove said items from the mill building and to assume full liability for any injuries that might occur to those participating in such removal operation.

Signed Homer Abel Pres

Signed Lucile E. Moore

Signed James C. Moore

Received payment (Check No. 3010).

Lucile E Moore

5-15-74

616-781-7735

sent 50¢ Extra after last Cookie trip when we brought Cast Kettle home Pk # 3828

Sometime in May, early, on a Friday I think, Homer and I go to the Wildt property, North of Belleview Michigan, after our work day was done, to pick up some items. We are going to stay over night. There is no electricity, so we are going to start in the evening and continue the next day. We are going to get pieces that are not sawmill related. We are taking two trucks, and a trailer with the forklift on it. Homer has made a payment for the rest of the pieces in the building, that include 2 cider presses, a Silent meat cutter, a WW-I wooden washing machine, and more shafting and pulleys. All of these items are in the section of the building that still has a good roof.

The explanation of the building would be good at this time. This section of the building was a 3-story hip roof building, and it was attached to the sawmill section in an L-shape. As I mentioned earlier, the sawmill building was already in bad shape, as the roof was mostly gone. The mill was only a 2-story building.

All of the equipment in these two buildings was powered with 2 steam engines, and one boiler, the boiler was approximately the same size as the one we had in our steam sawmill.

The Wildt's, father, born approx, 1855, and son, born 1879, had been in business, buying surplus items from the Federal Government, at their auctions, and re-selling the items. They also ran the sawmill, and operated a business, making tomato Ketchup, Apple sauce, Applebutter, jam's and jellies, and buying meat and processing it. All of these items were then sold to the Michigan Prison System. All of this occurred from before 1900, to about 1935. This was before the requirements of all stainless steel equipment to do these things.

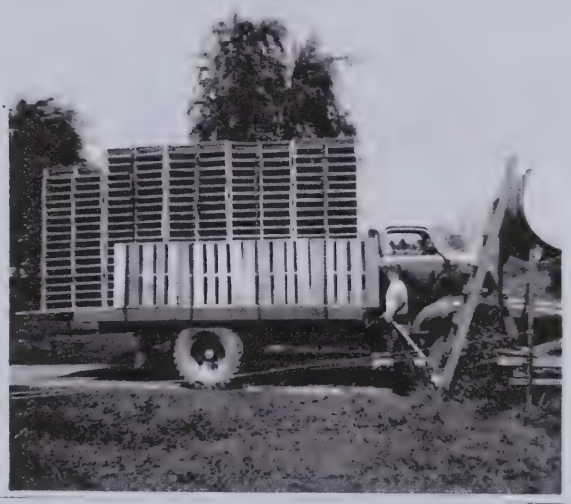
The cider presses were large, both were 5' diameter pieces, but differed in that one operated with a hydraulic cylinder, and the other was a screw press. The screw press, had a circular track. There were 2 carts for the track and while one was being pressed, the other could be filled and pressed when the first was finished. The screw press stood about 7' tall, and had 4 verticle threaded posts and gearing to operate it. The other press, had a wooden ram in a cast steel pot. It was like the one that operated in Auburn, Indiana in the early1960's and before, behind the old Log Cabin Market on Jacob Street.

The horizontal washing machine tub, and interior was all wood, and had 2 drums, the outside was water tight, and the inner was where the clothes would have originally gone. The inner tub was slatted and there was a set of steel and cast iron gearing that operated the machine. The Wildts did not use it for washing clothes, it was used for washing apples, before they were peeled or cooked. It was located on the third floor of the building, with belts and shafting coming all the way from the 1st floor. There was an elevator to bring the apples to the wash area. All of the vats for all of the processes of tomatoes, apples, other fruit's, meat were made of white pine, and most of the vats were between 8-16' long and 2-4' wide and the planks were 2"x18" clear White Pine.

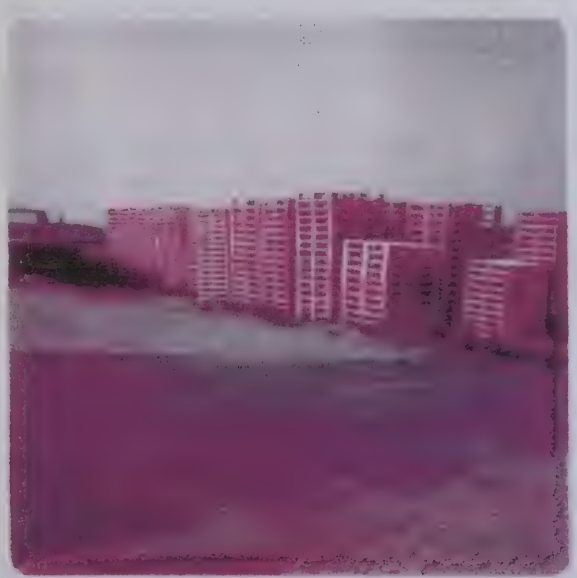
The Silent meat cutter, was all cast iron, with steel sickle knives. The knives were mounted on a horizontal shaft, and the bowl was 3/4" cast iron. The knives were shaped so they cleared the bowl by 1/8", and the bowl rotated to make the process work.

We spent the night, and thought we had enough blankets and clothes to keep warm, but the next morning, Homer woke up and was in hypothermia, which I recognized, even though I had never seen it before. I got him in the truck and we went to the rest area on Interstate 69, and got him in front of the electric hand drier, where he warmed up, but we went back home, instead of loading equipment.

Top, World War I, wooden clothes washer. Center, silent meat cutter, cast iron. It's second life was chopping Apples, in the Wildt operation of making Apple cider or Apple butter for the Michigan prison system, circa 1915-1935. Bottom, pulleys and shafting Homer purchased from the Wildt property.



Top left, PE-1405 top material sorted in sets ready to use, with the Duo-Fast S-763 gun in front. To the left are sets of 3 each runners sorted to use. Enough to make about 160 pallets in picture. Top right, Homer fueling the 1947 Chevy truck before a delivery. Other pictures are of pallets we had made ahead circa early 1974.



Tuesday May 28th, Homer took pallets to Dana, and the rest of us worked in the sawmill sawing and cutting material to length. I stopped for a while and loaded sawdust for one of the farmers. In the evening it rained a little.

Harry has been cutting and hauling from Cook's at Newville. There is a lot of Cottonwood, some Hackberry, and Willow.

Wednesday, we sawed again, till noon, I worked in the log yard, and the others made pallets, PM. There was a load to Dana, on Thursday. We again made pallets, seems like we are finally getting ahead a little.

Homer took 2 loads to Dana on the 31st, and for the second load he took the trailer and the forklift along and picked up a truck bed that the City of Auburn, street department was finished with.

Saturday, Homer, Bill and I worked on sawing, pallets, Ted and Jim were not here today. Homer went to see Mr. Diehl, he was wanting to sell some more trees, but Homer knew that they were too small, so he talked to him and finally got him to understand that they needed to grow, they were just too small and would not make him any money.

Pallet deliveries for the month, Dana, 4,362 pallets, and 540 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 310 pallets, New Haven, 275 pallets. Farm lumber , no record, but there definitely was some.

June begins with two of the school people coming back to work, on Monday, the 3rd, Mike Gerig, and Ernie Hurni. They are a welcome sight, we need more help. Pallets to Dana, and saw and make pallets, does that sound familiar?

Tuesday, begins with a call from Jim Provines, he got a job with Jordan Construction Co. and will be leaving. Sawed lumber for pallets, and made pallets most of the day. Homer had things to do with the survey of his mother's property, and left mid- morning. He was back just after noon, and helped in the mill. He sorted logs in the PM, and the rest of us worked mill and pallets.

Wednesday, three loads, one to each of our customers, The crew worked steadily at the mill sawing pallet material, and cutting it to length. After regular work time, Homer loaded Paul Inlow's lumber, gate material. I told you earlier, there was still farm lumber, but not very much is recorded.

Thursday begins, "Bright Morning", and Homer went to see more logs from Knowles timber. He bought them, and Harry brought in two loads, and "Hen", brought in 3 loads, from Knowles. Homer and I worked in the log yard, while the others made pallets. We were nearly overwhelmed by the volume of logs arriving. There were 2 loads to Dana today. We had Warren sawing today, he was not farming, so dad and I could work in the yard.

Friday, June 7th, again Homer is working in the log yard, and I am working on truck tires. There were 3 tires to repair, and it took a while to do. These tires still had tubes, so there was the work of getting the tire off one side of the rim to get to the tube. Hard Work. We did not have any mechanical means to do this, it was all with a sledge, soapy water and a tire wedge driven in between the rim and the tire. Then hand tools to pry the tire over the rim. Homer had to weld a dog for the mill at one point in the day. Late in the day I took a load of fire wood to Waterloo.

Saturday June 8th, everyone except Bill here, and we all did our part of clean-up and get ready. Harry came with logs two times, and Homer filled the log deck and we started sawing pallet material. Warren sawed, I ran the edger, and Homer kept the log deck full. Mike was making pallets, and he left at noon. Ted and Ernie worked at cutting material and Homer hauled it to the pallet building when the pallets were full of material. In the afternoon, Homer sawed, from 1-3 PM. Ted and I left at 3:00, Ernie, and Homer were working on the hydraulic pump for the log turner, and it is almost ready to use again. Also before noon, Homer was loading a truck with sawdust and hauling it out to a more remote location. The sawdust pile was becoming a problem, not enough farmers wanting sawdust at the present time. We need to install a new post further out for the sawdust drag, and extend it .

Monday, Homer worked at cutting the material into pallet lengths. He also sorted some of the material into "sets", meaning that the runners were sorted into sets of 3 and that the center one was always slightly smaller in height. This saved time for those who were making the pallets. It also kept the pallets so they would not wobble in the stacks. If this was not done, they would start to lean in the piles, which were anywhere from 15-17 pallets high. The pallet tops had the same process, always a smaller piece in the center of a 3 piece set. Some of the top material was also sorted and stacked so it could be readily used. That was done mostly on the Dana, PE-1405 pallet material.

Homer also cut up logs and sorted them today, and when Ernie left at 3:00, Homer started cutting the lumber into pallet length pieces again. After supper, He loaded a load of pallets for delivery on Tuesday, to Dana.

Tuesday,Homer worked in the mill until Ted returned from delivering the pallets. He then sorted material for PE-1405's and made PE-1407's till he left for an appointment at 2:00. His appt, was a doctor visit, where he learned his EKG looked good. He was also told to take 4 full dose Aspirin a day for 2 weeks. When he returned, he worked making pallets and moving material from the mill to the pallet building.

Wednesday, Homer loaded pallets first, for Crane-Edmund, and then he delivered the pallets, after he and Ted worked a little longer on other pallets. When he returned, he arranged the material for Mike Gerig to make pallets. Homer then made more PE-1407 tops. He also repaired the handle for the setworks. That handle was a rod about 5' long and 1/2" in diameter. It got a lot of action, as it was used to move the log forward for every cut, and there was a lot of bouncing motion involved when the sawyer let go of the rod, causing a lot of torture over time. It would break about 8" away from the end where it was attached. Both Homer and I had welded it several times over a period of several months, and eventually, it had to have a new rod installed.

Some of our driveways, had become full of holes, and there is a note that Homer fill some of the worst ones today. Ed Proksa came for some stakes that he had ordered, and Homer took care of that.

Thursday, Homer started the day by loading pallets for Dana, and helped make the last few, so they could be used to finish the load. I delivered the load, and Homer worked in the log yard, and filled the deck in preparation for sawing. He and Mike were making pallets and tops while I was gone. Mike continued to make pallets the rest of the day, and the rest of sawed more material. Homer went to Richard Myers to get 2 loads of logs, in the evening.

Homer had purchased timber from LaVern Voirol, and there is no agreement, but Harry finished up Cook's, and has been working Voirol's

Friday June 14th, Homer is sorting and Notching stringers, till noon. He loaded pallets and took them to Dana, and he also took the trailer and the Allis-Chalmers WD tractor. After pallets were unloaded, he went to Otis Kempf's and cut and skidded and hauled one load home. He got in @ 7:30. It was cloudy, almost like dark.

Saturday, was a rarity, Homer had the place to himself. He notes that he is getting a summer head cold, and does not feel good.

By Monday, he is feeling some better, but still not on top of it. He worked at sorting, and in the mill while Ted delivered a load to Dana. He did go to get staples in Fort Wayne.

Tuesday, he worked in the pallet building in the morning. Ted delivered another load to Dana. The rest of us worked in the mill, and cut up all we sawed, into pallet length boards. Had a good day, very productive.

Sprinkled around on Wednesday, made more pallets, and sawed in the afternoon. Homer loaded a load of pallets. Recently, Homer has been on the fringe of the work in the mill, in and out, but not really there much. He is letting me oversee most of the production, and he helps where needed.

Thursday the 20th, A nice day, Homer went to Kempf's, at Ashley in the afternoon, and finished up there. Today is Homer's birthday, 51 years old. George and family at farm for supper and we got him a stainless 1 quart thermos. He played with the grandchildren, and got out his harmonica and played it for us. He noted that he had a good time with the grandchildren.

Friday, he sorted pallet material, took the pallets, and the tractor to the DeKalb County Farm, where he is going to cut and haul the logs next. He hauled more sawdust out, too full again. He also started the search for a transmission gear for the Ford backhoe. He found one in Coldwater, Michigan, and went and picked it up. He noted that there was a tornado watch this evening till 11:00PM.

Saturday, he installed the gear in the Ford, and it works again. Homer hauled 3 loads of sawdust again, then it rained. He sorted and helped here and there, his words. I sawed Mr. Metrailer's farm lumber and he helped. He made pallets after 3:00.

Monday, we sawed and made pallets till 3:00, then we stopped, and started working on the mill track, it was beginning to settle in the middle. The whole mill is set on timbers, thinking it would be temporary, and we would get the steam engine in place and get sawing there again, but it did not happen. The Husk had settled as well, and that meant that the main shaft was out of alignment as well. We were beginning to have problems with the lumber being crooked. So that whole process took a full day's worth of hours. And we got going again on Tuesday afternoon. One load did get taken to Dana.

Tuesday, two loads to Dana, and we were off and going again. While we were finishing the track and the main shaft, Homer was working in the boiler building.

Wednesday, 26th, Ted delivered Dana pallets. We sawed until 3:00, then worked on leveling the edger, and we are still closing up the boiler room. Through the winter, it had a 1/2" layer of black insulation board on in. Now the front and the South sides were getting metal siding, over the black board. The West side got wood siding. That siding was Soft Maple, and it was battened, with 3" wide strips over the cracks between the wider boards. In the evening, it rained by spells.

Thursday was a very busy day, and the weather was nice. We worked on pallet material and pallets in the morning. A couple of the men worked on the siding on the boiler building. Warren finished the leveling of the edger. We sawed all afternoon. Homer moved pallets to outside the building, in stacks. We were beginning to get ahead enough that we could stockpile the pallets. In the morning, Ted and Ernie notched stringers. The process allowed 3 stringers to be notched as a set at one time, one end at a time. The machine was capable of notching 4 pieces a time, if you had pallets that required 4 stringers.

Friday, 2 loads to Dana, that makes 6 loads to Dana this week. Other work as usual, Homer's words. Homer made PE-1407 tops next. He went to cemetery next to hand dig foundations for marker stones. G'Nell had been watching the grandchildren all week. Frances had been at a church meeting for women in Lafayette, Indiana. She got home today and came out to the farm for supper.

The backhoe, needed a new sector gear for the steering, and Homer went to Coldwater, to pick up a new one. It cost$19.62.

Saturday, started a nice day, Homer finished the foundation digging, by 10:00. He worked at the mill till noon. Ernie and Warren, Warren's wife and daughter, came, pre-arranged, and they went with Homer to the National Thresher's Association show at Wauseon, Ohio. Mac Keller was a local sawmill owner over South of Garrett, Indiana, and he always went to this show to operate the sawmill, which was powered with a steam traction engine. He let Homer saw the last log for the day. Then Mac, sawed water melon with the mill which he did every year. He then gave the sliced water melon to spectators that were around the mill. I think I was at home, after my wife being gone all week.

The delivered pallet report for June, Dana, 4,034 pallets, 325 blocks. Crane-Edmund, 255 pallets, New Haven, 250 pallets. James Hart,came to pick up the material for a wood covering over his well pit.

Early July, Harry finished the trees at Grate's. Homer continues to use Knowles timber, to purchase their poorer grade logs, pallet material. He pre-paid for 20,000 feet, or $2,500.00 worth. He also made the last payment for the logs at Cook's.

Monday, 7-1-1974, while Homer was at the cemetery, finishing making the wood forms for the foundations, the large air compressor quit. I do not know who was making pallets, but they needed to have the smaller compressor running to continue to make pallets. After the forms, Homer went to the county farm woods and cut trees and skidded the logs out to load.

Tuesday, Homer sorted lumber for pallets, and unloaded logs. He did get in the mill for a while too. The rest of us were in the mill, making more pallet material.

Wednesday began a nice day. Homer worked in morning sorting pallet material, ready to assemble. Those of us at the mill in the afternoon had a good day, sawing,a and making material. I took the finished material to the pallet building in the evening.

July 4th, I took the day off and was with my family. I do not know what we did but I am sure we had a good time. The other's, Homer, Ted, and Ernie, worked on the log turner, and the pump for it. Homer's note says, Dirty as pigs. It was not quite finished, when they stopped. There had been oil leaks in the pump as well as the cylinder. With all the dust and dirt off the logs, the seals get a lot of grit and dirt. I can only imagine what they looked like.

Friday, the log turner got finished in the morning. It has no leaks and works very well. We sawed all afternoon, and it went well. Homer loaded 2 loads of sawdust, and helped in the mill in the PM. In the evening, Homer mowed the area around where the steam mill had been.

I had been asking the crew on Friday, if they wanted to work on Saturdays, and they said they did, so Saturday, we started by sawing material in the morning. It went pretty good for a while, and then one of the few things we did not repair on the log turner, the relief oil hose broke. Because the turner now has more pressure and volume, from the repairs, the hose was the weak point. I got the others working on pallets. I went in search of a new hose. I went to Allison's in Auburn, and they called their store in Kendallville, and I went and got it. Homer had been gone looking at trees at Maldeney's in the morning, and when he got back, I was not back with the hose yet. It did not take long to install the hose, and we sawed in the afternoon. Homer worked in the original mill building cleaning some of the areas that had been left to "go to seed". He was concerned that the OSHA inspector would come, and for lack of anything else would write us up for a "junk corner", as a fire hazard.

Monday, Homer had other commitments after 9:30. We had 4 loads of pallets to deliver, 2 to Dana, and one each to Crane-Edmund, and New Haven. Homer took Bill with him to the cemetery, and they had the concrete mixer there to fill the foundation holes. Almost all of them were off the driveways far enough that they needed to be wheeled in with a wheel barrow. That is one of the things that takes skill and quick thinking. A single wheel on the barrow, makes it interesting. The concrete mix is not a solid, and sloshes around in the tub. It is however, like riding a bicycle, once you learn, the worst that can happen, is you are a little rusty.

Tuesday the 9th, Homer worked till 9:00, then dug a grave, and took the forms off the foundations. I sawed and the others worked in the mill, Warren was off planting beans at Holman's, after wheat.

Wednesday, Homer worked all day, 10:00-5:00, sawing, the first he had done an all day in quite a while. Two loads of pallets to Dana. I find that Homer had not used the turner yet, so it seems, Warren and I had been doing most of the sawing. Homer's last comment, today, "tired"

Thursday, Warren is back and he sawed all day. Homer moved material and sorted both in the log yard and in the pallet building. I was gone in the afternoon. I had been taking the original EMT course in DeKalb County, and it was my turn to go the the emergency room at Parkview Hospital, on Randallia Ave, in Fort Wayne, both this afternoon and tomorrow PM. That was the end of my training, and when I took the test, I finished with a B+ grade, and that was the only college course I ever took. It was an 80 hour course.

Friday, 2 loads to Dana, 7:00 and 10:00. Homer worked at pallets while Ted delivered pallets. Then he worked in the mill, sawing some wagon sills and cross pieces, for a farmer. The others made pallets, and Homer moved some steel in the original mill building. He was still energetic, and he got on the roof of the 1960 building, and coated some of the metal roof with asphalt-Aluminum sealer.

Saturday, I had a crew of Ted and Ernie. We sawed and cut up pallet material most of the day. My mother and dad left to go to see family in Orrville, Ohio. They will be back on Monday evening.

Monday, July 15th, Ted delivered a load of pallets to Dana, and we sawed and made pallets all day. There were 3 of us in the mill, Warren, Ernie, and Ted. Mike Gerig, and Bill VanAuken were making pallets. I was working in the log yard, and loading the log deck, also keeping the newly cut pallet material hauled to the building. The day went very well, and we got a lot of pallets and material ready. Mom and dad got home about dark, the trip taking longer than usual, because the federal speed limit is now 55 miles per hour.

Tuesday, we had the goal of having two loads of pallets for the next day. One load was made on Monday, and Homer loaded that load, so it was ready. He also sorted material for making the other load. He is still working on the boiler room, lowering the floor level, so it can get a concrete floor. Homer made the trip to get the new switch for the large compressor. Before he left for the switch, we had a brown out in the electric system. There was a tree that had been in contact with the wires coming to the pallet building. The wire burned through, and Homer went and shut off the line and made a splice, for repair, after he cut the tree back.

Wednesday, we delivered the 2 loads of pallets to Dana, Worked in the mill, and Homer sorted and piled Cottonwood and Basswood logs, ready for making pallet top material.

Homer went to see Willard Maxwell, and purchased timber. The agreement, Abel's Sawmill, Inc, agrees to purchase and remove within 1 year, 142 marked trees,(orange mark). The property is located East of St. Rd. 101, and South of Co. Rd. 56-A. Remove when ground is fit, and no crops in field. Tops to be kept in woods or pulled back into woods. Check was written, as paid in full. $3,420.00 Signed by both parties. After the purchase, he went and picked up logs at L. Shutt's

Thursday the 18th, Homer worked sorting pallet material till 8:00, then made 2 trips to the Kempf property to get the CO-OP, and the WD tractors, and moved them to the County Farm woods, where he got one load back to the mill. Later he sorted pallet runner's, and notched sets, ready to be used. After supper, he went to the rear of the steam sawmill-boiler building and dug out part of the original wall concrete, for replacement. The new building would be 2' wider on each side of the building.

Friday, The crew worked in the mill and making pallets. Homer went to Co.Farm and got 2 loads of logs to the mill. His notes say, that mom went along in the afternoon, for the second load. This was somewhat rare, but she wanted to see the area, so she went along.

Saturday, Homer got another load of logs. I worked on getting equipment ready for Monday, and made some pallets. No one else was there today.

Sunday PM., Homer wrote checks and sorted some paperwork. We continued to pay on Monday.

Monday, a load of pallets to Dana. Homer went and got another load of logs before noon. He went back in afternoon, to cut and skid, but got rained out at 4:30. During the day, the rest of the crew sawed and made pallets, and I worked in the log yard most of the day. It was one of those days, "There goes another one." Another 100 Amp fuse, decided it had had enough, and burned the paper off, before blowing the fuse part.

Well, I now have paperwork again, as well as my father's daily journal, the checkbook, and farm lumber slips.

Homer had another of the people that lives in a wooded development, call and asked him to look at 14 trees that had died, because of the construction. Phil Alexander, agreed to sell them for $300.00. There were also 7 small trees, that Homer purchased, that were included in the amount.

Tuesday, the 23rd, Homer took the pallets to Dana, did work at the cemetery. He never got back to the mill today, but we made quite good progress, sawing and pallet making.

Homer made an offer on trees owned by Carson Culler, 2 miles East of Newville, Indiana. That bid was to be opened, at 3:00 PM, on July 26th, 1974. Homer was there for the opening, and he was out bid, in fact his was the low bid. There were 5 bidders. The buyer for Pike Lumber, at Akron, Indiana, was the high bidder. They were looking at the Oak and Maple, which was high quality.

Over the last week, Warren has been back again, and doing most of the sawing. So, Wednesday, we had a full crew. Homer went and got 2 loads of logs at the County Farm. After that he came and worked in the pallet building. Homer made a note that, Mike and I rode our bicycles home this evening after supper. Mike was 7 years old in April. It is 5.4 miles home from the mill, the way we went. Pretty tough young man. I had been riding both morning and evening for quite a while. But, this was Michael's first time. He did very well, and we were only going about 4-5 mile per hour. Traffic was not an issue at this time, you usually only saw about 5-6 vehicles at that time of day. Homer's last note was, Dana called and needed PE-1405 pallets, this was at 7:30 PM. He loaded a load and took them, rather than have them come and get some.

Friday July 26th, we had a special day of sawing. Today was the day to saw the largest of the Cottonwood logs that came from Rhodes, along the St. Joe River at Co. Rd. 64 and St. Rd. 1. There will be a picture, in this book, of it on the carriage, with about the first 13 cuts made. We also sawed part of the next largest one today. One and one half logs in one day. It was all sawed into 1/2" material. It actually went very well. There is a lot of chain saw work that goes into the process. From what I can tell, I sawed these logs after we got them situated on the carriage. Dad was there while they were being loaded. He worked in the pallet building while we were sawing. Ted sorted and made pallets while he was not needed in the mill. Those large logs took a long time to handle, until they were cut down to a size that is somewhat normal. Ted also delivered two loads of pallets today. At one point, I loaded and hauled sawdust away from the pile. This, because, the 1/2" cuts make a tremendous lot of sawdust, and the pile was already very large, before we started the Cottonwood.

Saturday, Homer helped Ted on pallets until Ernie came at 9:30. Ernie had something in his eye, and went to the doctor. I worked at various things, repairing, and cleaning up. Homer worked on some of the boiler building wall and floor work, getting ready for more cement work.

Sunday July 28th, nice day, no rain for 3 weeks, quite dry. In the afternoon, Homer wrote the checks, and went out and looked around. This means he was planning for Monday, by observation.

Monday, we sawed 2 more of the large Cottonwood logs, they are still right at 5' in diameter. We also poured some concrete for the floor in the boiler building, and other small jobs in the area. Bill cut the sprouting new Cottonwood, coming up in the burned area. We also moved some burned iron.

The largest Cottonwood log. Homer, top left. In the log yard, top right. George Abel, bottom left.

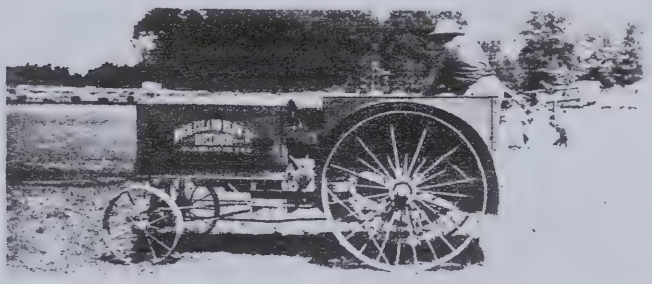
# NATIONAL THRESHERS ASS'N., INC.

# FULTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

## WAUSEON, OHIO

ON ST. RTE. 108, EXIT 3, OHIO TURNPIKE

## THURSDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 27 - 30, 1974



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BUILDING for MODELS

150 MOTEL UNITS

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GOOD EATING STANDS

### For the Ladies -- SPECIAL PROGRAMS, TEAS, HOBBY LOBBY

THURSDAY 2:00 P.M. — TEA

FRIDAY 2:00 P.M. — "SHRINK" by Mrs. Dorothy Keeley, Perrysburg, Ohio

SATURDAY 2:00 P.M. — "CRAFTS" by Mrs. James Lehman, Defiance, Ohio

THURSDAY - 10 A.M.
Opening Ceremonies
P.M. - Annual Meeting
Memorial Service - Slides
FRIDAY - 10 A.M.
Opening Ceremonies
7:30 P.M. Wauseon High School Band
8 P.M. - Parade
Fiddlers Contest 9 P.M.
CLASS A - 60 YEARS & UNDER
CLASS B - OVER 60 YEARS
(Enter Register with Secretary)
SATURDAY - 10 A.M.
Opening Ceremonies
0 P.M. - Band Concert
4 P.M. - Parade
Square Dancing
aturday Evening 8:30
SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M.
Church Service
Gospel Concert
1:30 P.M. Band Concert

### PARADES

Friday -- 8 P.M.

Saturday & Sunday - 4 P.M.

### HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, Sunday

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HORSESHOE CLUB

### ANTIQUE CARS'

STEAM FURNISHED FOR
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CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE
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**Members admitted by Membership Card Only**

Tuesday, the 30th, Homer helped saw, after he loaded the pallets for New Haven. Ted delivered them, and went to pick up the next batch of staples. Homer took the forms off the concrete work, and watered it so it would not crack, because of the dry and the heat of this time of the year. We sawed and made pallets and had a very good day. In the evening, for supper time, my wife, Frances, brought supper and a cake and ice cream, to celebrate my parents 30th anniversary, as well as my mother's birthday.

Wednesday, Ted took a load of PE-1405 to Dana, and Homer and Warren made the PE-1407 pallet tops while Ted was gone. Then Homer sorted material, while the rest of us sawed in the mill. About 3:30, Homer went to pick up a logs at the County Farm, as well as cut some more trees down, and he returned to the mill about 7:45. He noted that he was sure tired tonight.

Harry is cutting and hauling at Maldeny's at the present time. The gasoline for the mill and the trucks, cost $353.36, for this fill up.

Homer went to an auction, and purchased $75.00 worth of items, including a barrel pump, hand saw vise, pipe bender, and 2 cant hooks. There were the regular purchases of small lots for 50 cents and a dollar, but it was all items that would likely be usable in the operation of the sawmill. There were 24 lots, that he purchased.

It is time to get a look at the July farm and custom lumber. I have known that we were still selling it but, did not have the paperwork to back it up, now I do. Larry Ehlers, 57-1x6x8', 15-1x6x12', Harry Hefty, 30-1x6x16', 45-1x5x16',15-1x4x16', Don Shoudel, 14-2x4x8', 2 pieces, 2-3/8"x12', probably a set of wagon sills, and the cross pieces for it. Donald Abel, (not close relation), 6-4x4x12', John Haynes, 150-1x5x16', 10-2x4x10', 4-2x8x8', 10-1x12x8', Wayne Heffley, 2 each of 3x6x10 and 12' long. Ron Wellman, 50-1x5x14', Tom Heckard, of Toledo,Ohio, 4-2x10x12', (we probably met him at The Anderson's). Francis Dulle, 12-1x10x10', Paula Johnston, 60-1x4x10', 24-1x4x7', 12-1x4x14', Harold Johnston, 8-2x4x8', 1-2x4x14', Grogg's Standard Service Station, 2 pieces 1-1/2"x10"x9', Culbertson Sales and Service, 4-3x10x8', Grant VanHorne, 4-1x6x10, 10-1,1/2x8x7', 4-1.1/2x10x 4,1/2', 2 stakes 3-1/8" wide x 8', James Kapp, custom sawing, Walnut, James Hart, 1-2x12x14'. All of these totaled $650.00 worth of lumber and sawing.

There were some sales of firewood, to Wilbur Voges, 3 loads, H. Link, one load, and D. Thompson, one load, for $87.00.

Now, the pallet deliveries for the month of July, Dana, 4,200 pallets, and 1,300 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 235 pallets, New Haven, 525 pallets.

August 1st, Homer worked at pallets and mill in the morning, and went to cut trees at the County Farm woods, he brought 2 loads and was home at 7:30. The rest of us sawed and made pallets.

Friday, Homer loaded the load for Dana, early, then the load for Crane-Edmund, and Ted took the 3rd, load for the day to Dana. I left at noon, had things to do at home. Homer helped saw and cut up material in the afternoon. Homer, says "tired, went to bed early."

Saturday, Homer worked at the boiler building, and I was not there, so I think any others that were there worked making pallets. Homer said, a ground hog nearly ran into him, the sun was in his eyes.

The last concrete that was poured in the steam boiler building, cost $70.20. The most recent supply of staples and nails for the pallets was, $555.25.

Monday August 5th, Homer sorted material for pallets, and helped notch pallet stringers. He then loaded a load of pallets for Dana, and went from there to the County Farm to cut and haul logs. He was back at 1:30, Hen, was in with a load of logs and Homer unloaded them with the forklift. We had been sawing, most of the day and after the logs, Homer helped in the mill, because Ernie went home. Later Homer delivered Walter Hook's fire wood. He then went out to dig a little more at the boiler building, getting ready for more cement work.

Tuesday, we worked at making pallets for most of the morning, then I got the mill ready and we sawed in the afternoon. After 8:30, Homer went to Forest Canyons, to cut trees where there was a house built and the trees had died from the construction work, a year later. He got home with a load at 4;30. It is important to know, Homer did not drop any trees on any buildings in his career. He was extremely careful, and took into account all the factors involved, when cutting. He was skilled with his chain saw. When needed, he would use wedges and a sledge to force a tree to go where he wanted it to go. He rarely used a wood wedge, almost always it was steel wedges that were used.

Wednesday, Homer went again to yesterday's location, Phil Alexander's, to get more logs, and he notes that the trees are around the house. He brought 2 loads in, and unloaded the last one to be ready for tomorrow. The weather is very hot and dry.

August 8th, Ted is sick, he had a headache yesterday, and is worse today. Homer delivered the pallets to Dana, and Ernie delivered to New Haven. We sawed and cut up more pallet material during the day. Still very hot and dry.

Friday, Homer went to dig a grave, and a hose broke on the backhoe when he was almost done. So he finished it by hand. After he got home, he went to Dunn's in Waterloo, and got the new hydraulic hose, for the backhoe, and installed it.

This was the day President Nixon resigned, and Gerald Ford became President of the USA.

Saturday, Homer and Ernie went to cut the last of the trees at Forest Canyon, and they had 3 loads. The job is finished, and Homer says, "Sure tired and glad that job is done." I notice, as I continue to read this account, that Homer is slowly wearing out, cutting trees. It is getting really hard for him. He never let on to me, how hard it was getting, he just kept on going.

Homer noted on Sunday's account that he slept most of the afternoon, wrote the checks, and checked the computer sheets of the August report of our operation, from the accountant.

Monday, August 12th, Homer helped us saw, sorted both logs and pallet material, getting the latter ready for assembly. He unloaded logs, made pallets, loaded the load for Dana for Tuesday. He made a call to the saw service in Indianapolis, to have the mill saws tensioned again. He got an appointment for 8:30 tomorrow. He discussed this with me and I said I would go. That meant being up and ready to leave the mill at just after 4:30 in the morning. I had been there before, but, this time I was going to have to deal with morning traffic, because this is in downtown Indy. The address was 342 Virginia Avenue.

Tuesday, I got good start, going to Indianapolis, and got there about 8:00, ahead of my check in time. One of the things I talked about with the man that works on the saws, was, what reason is there that we are needing to have the saws worked on so often? He said, it appears you are over powered, when the saw is in the cut, therefore, the saw is running above the speed it is tensioned for, causing it to lose it's stiffness sooner. If the mill was powered with an electric motor, the speed would be constant, and when in a cut it would be just very slightly under the hammered speed, by say 20-30 RPM. The saw would run at that speed and not get stretched as soon. We are operating an engine that is rated at 226 H.P. at 2,000 RPM. We could operate with a horsepower of around 75 horsepower and it would be enough. The Hercules has a governor, and when in the cut, it runs at a higher RPM. We had 3 saws hammered, and I picked up 700 saw bits, and a dozen 10" mill files. The saws cost $138.60, and the teeth and files were, $179.09.

While I was gone, The crew made pallets, and Homer worked on installing new chains on the live deck, where the logs come in to the mill. Ted delivered 2 loads of pallets. I returned about 2:00, and Homer installed one of the blades, and we sawed in the late afternoon. The blade worked like it was supposed to, Homer says, it was O.K. In the evening, Homer fixed the switch on the live deck.

Wednesday, the 14th, Homer loaded the load of Dana pallets, and took them. When he got unloaded, he went to Culbertson Sales and Service, Inc. and bought a new McCullough chain saw. A Super Pro-105, with a 27" bar, for $362.67, after the 10 % discount, they give their business customers. It is going to be like cutting cold butter with a very hot knife. It is a professional timber cutter's saw.

I have the privilege of looking at a small patch of timber, that Larry Heffley owns, and writing the agreement with Larry. The agreement I wrote, says, "We, Abel's Sawmill, Inc, agree to cut, skid, and haul timber from this acreage, timber that is marked in an area to be covered by a small lake. It is bordered by a fence row on the North. There is a woods on the South. We will pay $60 per M board feet, to be scaled on our yard. To be cut by 8-31, 1974 if possible. Signed by both parties.

We had a good day sawing, and making pallets, and Homer got back late in the afternoon from some errands, and dug some more in the boiler building, toward more floor.

Thursday, there were 2 loads to Dana, and when Homer got back, he and I went to Heffley's to access to location and mark a path to get in to cut the logs. Homer went back in the afternoon to make the path in. I put a new battery in the Ford Backhoe in the afternoon. Homer took the Allis-Chalmers tractor to Heffley's in the early evening. The crew sawed and made pallets most of the day.

Friday, Homer helped in the mill and sort early, then loaded 2 loads of Dana pallets and delivered one, and Ted the other. Ernie left at noon, and Homer worked in the mill in the P.M. As Homer said, a while back, Pallets, Pallets, Pallets, that's what I think too.

Saturday, Homer and some of the rest of CREW made pallets most of the day. Ted helped till 10:00, I was not there, because my mother had our children.

Sunday my wife and I picked up our children about 8:45. They had a good time with grandpa and grandma. They were ready to go home, though. We were ready to have them with us too.

We have not burned another fuse in a while, because we are being careful not to run too many pieces of larger equipment, at the same time. We did have Nowak & Williams, check our fire extinguishers and they checked out good. We took them in, and the charge was $22.50. The current electric bill was $42.22. The newest bill for staples was, $663.25.

John Ramer brought in some Walnut and Maple logs to sell. We paid him $59.20 for 340 board feet worth. The Walnut was really nice, and the Maple were grade lumber quality.

Monday August 19th, we worked at pallet making, and there were 2 loads delivered, one to Dana, and one to Crane-Edmund. I went to sort logs at 2:00, and made good progress. Harry brought in two loads from Maldeny's, which I unloaded with the forklift.

Tuesday, Homer went to Heffley's and cut trees, then loaded one load to bring back to the mill, He worked on painting the 1960 section of the pallet building metal roof, in the evening, which was getting a little rusty. The original mill roof was also being re-done, it was roll roofing, asphalt with grit, but was a very low pitch, which required replacement more often.

Wednesday, Homer helped in the mill in the morning, then went to get roller chain for the elevator drive, which took the firewood up and out to the dump trucks. The original chain was a section of used and it was now nearly worn out.

Thursday, Homer was at Heffley's, and there are Honey Locust, a tree that has thorns in clusters about 20-30 thorns per cluster. The clusters were about 6-12" apart all over the tree. The thorns are 1/2- to 3" long, and will flatten tires if run over. Really important to not run through the area where these trees were, because they shed their thorns about every 4-6 years. The lumber from them is quite hard and makes good building framing, and pallet runners. Homer brought a load home at noon.

Friday, Homer at Ken Turk's, at Newville, to look at trees. Then on to Hicksville, about 4 miles away, to see if Crook-Miller is receiving Ash logs. We sawed most of the day, with a little interlude of pallet making, getting ready for next week.

Saturday, 24th, Homer was working with Walter Reas, on a project, and then he got back and unloaded 2 loads of logs that Harry brought in. He also installed a new tile drain for the steam building re-work. He then went to Ione Wilson's to look at Cottonwood trees, she has decided to sell some, 37 to be exact, and wants them marked. These trees were in an area that used to be a channel of Cedar Creek. This was also an area that used to be a gravel pit. Homer marked the trees and showed Gene Wilson, her son what was marked.

Monday the 26th, two loads to Dana, and one to Crane-Edmund. Homer says it is Hot today. I delivered the load to Crane-Edmund. Homer spent more time today working on dig out and working toward the steam re-build. It is going slow, there are not enough hours in the day.

Tuesday, Homer went to get logs at Heffley's, and got a flat on the skid tractor, which he brought back to the shop to repair. Sawing pallet material in the AM, and sawed custom work in the afternoon.

Wednesday August 28th, Homer helped with pallets till Ted returned from delivering pallets to Dana. Then he took Ash to Hicksville. We had been sawing almost from the beginning of the day, and when Homer got back, he helped cut up the material we had stacked, ready to cut. He notes, that there were more than 5 pallets full of material ready to take in to the building to make pallets. He finished his day by sending out bills and checks. Bill Van Auken is back after some vacation time. It was a very good day, none of the equipment broke and everything flowed well.

Thursday, Homer loaded the 2 loads of pallets for Dana, one at 7:00, and the other at 10:00. He then helped with pallet making, and sorting material for them. The busy man, went to get a load of logs at Heffley's, and had to take the tractor back before he could load. He was back by 3:30, Then he unloaded the logs and loaded the backhoe to go dig a ditch, for Dale Goings, from his well to the house. When he got back to the mill, my whole family was there for supper. I will make note that the company we had been getting the saw teeth from in Lansing, Ray E. McHugh, has been sold and is now Hulsenkamp Saw Works, Inc. Homer wrote a check for $175. 09 for files and saw teeth to them.

Both of the men who live in the new development, south of Cedar Canyons Road in Allen County, have had more trees die and Homer purchased them. There was another neighbor of theirs, Bill Schaffer, that also sold one dead tree to Homer. Ralph has been cutting trees as well, and he is working the ones at Ione Wilson's, the Cottonwood trees.

Friday, Homer worked on pallets in the morning, Ted took the load to Dana at 10:00. Homer worked in the mill till 2:30, which is when I got back from delivering a load of fire wood. He then went to Heffley's and cut and hauled a load of logs. It is evident, there is never a dull moment around the mill. Always more to do, and it seems there will never be an end in sight.

Saturday the 31st, cloudy and cool. Homer worked on the International forklift, it's front axle was cracked and needed welding. Homer asked me if I wanted to weld it and I said no, because it was cast iron, and I still did not have enough experience welding with Nickel rod. I spent the day in the log yard sorting, cutting and moving logs, getting ready for next week.

It is time for the pallet delivery report again, Dana, 4,733 pallets, 1,170 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 585 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets. The total pallets this month, for all three, 5,618 plus 1,170 blocking pieces, makes a very large month.

Farm lumber,custom sawing, and firewood deliveries. One load of wood to David Thompson, and three loads to John McAllister. We are now charging based on amount and distance. Larry Dove, 1-3x8x10', Dave Southern, 2-3x8x16, 11-2x4x8, Kenneth Koeppe, 10-1x5x16', Lloyd Schrader, 16-1x4x14, 10-1x4x6, Larry Shutt, custom sawing of logs, Paul Larowe, 8-2and 1/4"x10&14', Wayne Haynes, 16-1-1/4"x12x16', 9-4x7x14', 6-4x7x10', Robert Ridge, 4-3x6x10', 3-4x4x10, Dave L. Wolff, 4-4x4x6', 4-2x8x11', 8-2x4x8', Richard Meek, 15-1x5x12', 5-1x5x10', 5-1x5x14', 8-2x4x9', Gerald Grate, sawing, twenty feet long, Jack Thrush, 1,100 feet of sawing. These brought in $700.00.

Monday, September 2nd, Homer sorted pallet material in morning, Warren and Ted made pallets, Homer worked in mill in PM. We got a cold rain in the evening. Ralph Carnahan, wanted some lumber sawed, from our stockpile of Oak, and Homer desired to purchase some used light and telephone poles from Ralph. In the end, Homer owed Ralph $13.20, for the poles. We did some custom sawing for Donald Inlow, and bought some timber from him, for $171.60.

Tuesday, Ted delivered a load to Crane-Edmund, and Warren delivered one to Dana. Homer sorted and helped a while. Homer then went to the cemetery, to dig out some evergreens that a family had planted 30 years ago and now were overgrown. He brought the backhoe home after that, and afternoon he worked in the mill, running the edger. Bill did not come in today, his car is being worked on and was not finished.

Wednesday, Homer got a load of logs in the morning. Homer noted that I had welded the Ford loader bucket. Homer put the board back on the bucket, so he could get a larger load of sawdust when loading it for bedding, or to haul away when the pile is too large. He did load a load of sawdust for a farmer right after he put the board on. Mr. Shutt came for the lumber he had sawed. Homer is working on the F-20, he bought some time ago. Bill came in the late afternoon, and Homer helped him with the pallet making.

Homer delivered a load of pallets to Dana in Thursday morning. After noon, he and Warren went to Hicksville and picked up the 2 steam pumps, that will be used in the future, instead of the injector. The injector process, even though we have mastered it, is frowned upon by the boiler inspector. This is because the steam pump will not ever fail to deliver water into the boiler, and sometimes the injectors are kind of balky, as well as old technology. While they were out, because the steam pumps were small, they stopped at Heffley's and got logs. Again tonight my family was at the farm for supper.

Friday, September 6th, Homer loaded a load for Dana and Ted took them. Homer and Warren made more pallets, and they went to New Haven. Homer worked on pallets till 11:00 and then had business in town. In the afternoon, he went to DuWayne Goings to dig up a field tile. We had a good day making lumber and cutting it up for pallet material.

Saturday, Homer finished the evergreen cleanup at the cemetery. It took him all day. I worked in the log yard almost all day getting ready for Monday.

Monday, I took the load of pallets to Dana, before Ted got there at 8:00. Homer helped saw, edger and cut-off saw, most of the day. We made about 6 pallets full of cut up material for pallets today.

Tuesday, the 10th, Homer loaded the pallets for Dana, and helped in the mill til noon. We continued in the mill after dinner, and Homer left for a commitment in Fort Wayne, he returned about 3:00. Homer had stopped at Culbertson's and bought a used McCullough chainsaw, a 797, for $110.00. He sorted 2x4's, and then worked making pallets. Bill came and worked pallets and helped notch stringers. Harry brought 2 loads of logs from Ione Wilson's. Homer says "I feel better than usual, this PM."

Wednesday, when Ted returned from Dana, we sawed and Homer left to get logs at Kenneth Turk's over near Scott Hook's. This was North of Newville. He got a load cut and loaded and came home, about 5:00, in a downpour of rain. It rained about 1-1/4. His last comment, "Sure am stiff and sore—worst I've been". Notice the swing in how Homer felt, He was on top of the world yesterday, and today, he is miserable. This is the swing in the weather, when you have arthritis. His was bad.

Thursday morning, Homer says, "Still can't hardly go this AM." Homer helped sort material, for a while. Then he went to dig some at the boiler building, and "Could hardly hold the shovel."----, "so I went in and helped sort, and make pallets". He never complained openly, to us. Warren worked with Bill this evening. There were two loads delivered to Dana today. It rained hard again this evening.

Friday September 13th, Homer starts the day sorting material for pallets. Warren and Ted nailed. I helped Homer notch 51" stringer's. After lunch, a load went to Dana. Homer helped cut up freshly sawed lumber until Ted returned. Then, he finished the dirt work for the wall and floor of the Boiler building. I will comment, this was actually west or in front of the boiler, and would be for storage of wood to fire the boiler when all was finished. None of this section had a roof yet. The sawmill would be on the upper level and therefore the building would have two levels. The original steam mill was all on one floor.

Saturday, brought a nice sunshiny day, with a cool start. Homer worked on the forms for all of the next group of cement pours. They included, a wall, some floor, and an extended steam engine block. You notice there is no comment about the arthritis, the weather is good again. High Barometer, good, Low and everything hurts.

Monday, September 16th, Homer was out and working at 6:30. Ted and Warren, finished the load for Dana, by making a stack of PE-1404 tops. I loaded the load and Ted took them. We did a few final finish things and ordered the cement. It came and we got it put in place, and all the forms held. I say that because one of the pours was 20" thick, 5' long and about 5-1/2' high, above ground and 3-1/2 feet below. Fresh cement has the ability to settle and really put pressure on a form. We had quite a few bolts going through pipe inside the large form. Homer is miserable this evening, because the other thing with arthritis is, when you work joints and body hard like he did today, it is worse. He also thought the floor looked pretty good. He went to bed at 6:30. He did note that Harry fell off his combine this afternoon, and bruised some ribs. You also notice, that some of these notes seem out of order, that is because I am writing them in the order they are entered in the book.

Tuesday, the 17th, Homer is up and feeling much better. He helped in the mill in the morning. He went to his Osteopathic doctor after lunch, and got adjusted. When he returned, he helped cut up material till 5:00, then he sorted material, ready to use. After supper, he took the forms off the new concrete work. It was a nice day.

I am not sure how Homer got the connection made, but, we received a load of #4, Yellow Pine and Spruce 2x4's in lengths from 8-16' long. The quality was also prone to having some twists and knots. This material came from a wholesaler in Clayton, Michigan; Townsend Brothers. There were 3,814 board feet of material on the load. There were some pieces that were what are called "scantling" lumber in the group. This means, the material is either thin or narrow, for part of the length. It was over 95% usable material, so it was a good purchase at $362.33. The majority of the 2x4's were either 14' or 16' long, which is nice. The length, gives us the ability to work around the twists, knots, and scant spots.

Wednesday, a nice day. Homer helped in the mill in the morning, then delivered a load of firewood. He helped in the mill a while, then removed the remaining form from the concrete, the one on the large engine support piece. A universal in the carriage works broke and he spent an hour fixing it. He helped Bill in the evening, making pallets. Before going to the house for the day, he loaded the pallets on the truck for tomorrow. After he got in and ate, he worked on paperwork for a while.

Thursday begins with Homer working on pallet material, and I delivered the Dana pallets. Then I returned to the mill and prepared to go The Andersons. On my way back I was to stop at Tractor Supply in Defiance, Ohio and get 24 gallon of Anti-Freeze, which was on sale, at $5.40 a gallon.

The trip to The Anderson's, was for 55 gall on of motor oil, and 3 batteries, of which 2 would go on the Hercules to start the engine. I had a good trip and got what I went after. Warren was off today, helping his parents move. Homer, Ted and Bill, sawed until 2:30 when I got back. Then I sawed for the rest of the afternoon. Homer had errands to do and he left when I got back. After supper, Homer again loaded the pallets on the truck for the next day.

Friday, Homer helped in the mill, in the morning. Ted delivered the pallets to Dana. Homer delivered a load of firewood in the PM, and when he got back, he worked on pallets a while. He had errands to do, and the rest of us sawed material.

Saturday, I worked on sorting and piling up logs, ready for Monday. No one else in today. Dad and Mom left early for Orrville, Ohio to see her mother. It was an all day affair, and they got back about 9:00.

Monday, the 23rd, we made pallets in the morning, delivered to Dana, sawed in the PM, 3 of us. Very short report today, and it ends with, Homer, " I'm the sorest and joints the worst they have ever been".

Tuesday, pallets in the morning, and Ted took the load to Dana at 10:00. Sawed in the afternoon. Homer looked at trees at Dale Goings, in the evening. Feeling pretty good, according to the way I have been. Homer helped Bill with pallets in the evening. Homer

Wednesday, another load to Dana early, no Bill today, and Ted, Homer and I sawed, and it went pretty well. In the evening, Homer installed a sill plate on the extended South wall of the boiler building.

Thursday, we worked all morning on pallets, Ted took a load to Dana at 6:45, one to New Haven at 8:15, and another to go to Dana, after Ted eats lunch, he took the load home with him. We sawed in the afternoon, and Homer was sawing. Homer says, " Left hand swelled , almost useless, by bed time." "Had to get up at 11:00, to put Ben-Gay on the hand, hope it is better in the morning".

Homer delivered the load to Dana early Friday, and there was another load at noon. We sawed and cut to length, when we were not making pallets. The day went real good. Homer, again, "awfully tired tonight". We delivered 7 loads of pallets this week, with 3 full time , and Bill ½ time.

Saturday, the "Three Musketeers, Homer, Ted and I sawed custom lumber in the morning. Homer and I sawed in the afternoon. Homer got the other plate piece on at the boiler building late in the day, and got 2 posts up and supported on that project.

One thing I notice, Homer is finally paying himself for his work, properly. It has been a thing in this small business, that the person that is making the decisions, is not paid for it fully, because the others come first. I am the first to admit, I did a lot of work in the mill, but the major planning and thought process, was still Homer's.

The 30th, Monday, we worked pallets till noon. Ted took the pallets to Dana. When Ted returned, we sawed and it went well. Bill came in late afternoon, and he made pallets. Homer says, "I'm pretty sore and stiff".

September pallets delivered, Dana, 3,790 pallets, 325 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, none, New Haven, 425 pallets.

September farm and custom lumber, firewood, and logs sold to Crook-Miller. The woods we have been working, have had some nice White Ash, because, we sold 2 loads of Ash, top grade, 3,179 board feet, at $225.00 per M. for $715.28. Most of these trees were mature and were about 18-to 23" in diameter.

The firewood, Voges, Schlatter, Jones, Shook, Washler, Folden, a total of $73.00. The farm lumber, Howard Grimm, 501 feet of sawing, and sawed 3 Walnut, and hit 3 nails in them, we charged for the time only on the Walnut. Larry Shutt, 654 feet of 2" plank, Hubert McNamara, gate and barn stall lumber, Paul Richter, a quantity of fence boards, Aden Carper, mixed lumber, Keith (Andy) Crow, 3-3x8x12', Carlin Krieg, 332 feet of custom sawing. These brought in $493.00.

Tuesday October 1st, Homer loaded the Dana pallets, and Ted delivered them. The three of us sawed pallet material. When Bill came, he helped in the mill today. The day went pretty well, and we made a lot of material. Homer said, "he feels better than most of the recent days.

Wednesday, Homer helped with pallets in the morning. I sorted logs and there was a load to Crane-Edmund, and 2 loads to Dana. We were able to saw all afternoon, without having problems.

We had a warmer day on Thursday, and notched and made pallets in the morning. We did not have any deliveries today. Sawed for the PE-1403 pallets in the afternoon. Homer worked on the boiler building, late in the day.

Friday, Ted delivered 2 loads to Dana, one at 8:00, and the other at 12:30. The rest of made pallets in the morning, and sawed material for the PE-1405 pallets in the afternoon. Bill did not come in today. Homer worked some in the boiler building this evening.

I did not go out to the mill Saturday, and Homer worked in the boiler building. My family all went to the farm, in the evening, for supper.

Monday, October 7th, We worked pallets in the morning, Ted took the Dana pallets. We sawed and cut up material in the afternoon. Bill left at 5:00. Homer was quite stiff and sore the evening.

Tuesday, pallets in the morning, and a load to Dana. Sawed in the afternoon, the day went very well and we got a lot accomplished. Homer helped Bill in the pallet making and then had him help install a plank, in the boiler building. Homer also made an agreement with Dale Goings, for his trees. The agreement was simply, cut when you can during the winter. Approximately 10,000 feet, and will pay about $400-500.00 and will scale when it comes on the yard.

Wednesday, was a repeat of Monday. The only thing that changed was Bill helped Homer for an hour in the evening, with the building.

Thursday, a nice day, but cool. Dana at 8:00, and New Haven at 10:00. Sawed in the afternoon, and made pallets in the evening. Knowles came in the late afternoon, to get more money, he had been getting $2,500 at a time and had recently caught up again. Hen has been delivering quite regularly.

Saturday, October 12th, two different farmers brought in a few logs, Bernard Lemper, and Wayne Storer. We worked on logs and servicing equipment and at noon, called it a day.

Monday, a load to Dana, and sawed most of the day, making 5 skids of material for pallets. Tuesday, make pallets and delivered them.

Wednesday, We sawed and some of it was a custom job for Mr. Warring. Made pallets in the afternoon. Bill nailed in the evening. Thursday, more pallets made, and delivered a load at noon. Homer loaded a load of sawdust for Ernie Hutton. Ernie was getting the nearly rotted down to compost, that the farmers could not use for bedding. He put it on his garden, then worked it in to enhance the soil. At the time, he was working and planting nearly a ½ acre of garden.

Friday, Ted took the load of pallets to Dana, then we sawed the rest of the day, until 2:00. Bill called, someone stole his car from the school parking lot. Homer took a load of firewood to Roberts. After Homer returned, he worked on the boiler building. I got the job of working on the Hercules water pump. We had the replacement parts and I had to remove the old and install the new parts.

Saturday, the 19th, The 3, Homer, Ted and myself sawed in the morning. Dad and I cut it up in the afternoon. The log turner cylinder is leaking, and when we took it off, we determined that it would need parts. So, someone will have to go get parts on Monday morning. It seems, that the repair work never stops, but we are using older equipment, and this is a dirty environment, for hydraulics. It has been snowing since about 4:00 and still is at 7:00.

Monday, 21st, Homer went to Fort Wayne to get the turner parts, and staples. He was back by 10:30. He installed the turner parts, and we were ready to saw again at 12:30. He helped in the afternoon, but commented,"Could hardly go." Bill did not come in today. In the evening, Homer did some paperwork.

Tuesday, Homer had an appointment to see the doctor, and have some tests, to see how his blood work is. He took firewood to Pastor Schuette's, in Auburn. After the firewood, and the tests, he got back and helped in the mill in the afternoon. He also found time to cut some trees for Thornton Zeisloft, out in a field. Because the Chevy dump truck was empty, Homer and I took two trucks, and the loader and brought 2 loads of logs home from Zeislofts. We got in at 7:00. Ate supper at the house, and then I helped Bill make pallets.

Wednesday morning, Homer unloaded the trucks, and cut, measured, and piled them up. We sawed from 10:30- 2:00. Homer worked on the new building till 3:30, then helped cut up material till 5:00. He got supper and then worked on the new building till 7:00. Just as he is going in, it started raining. He says, he is having a good day, no serious aches or pain.

Thursday, the normal load of pallets, guess where. Homer loaded a load of sawdust for a farmer. Made more pallets in the rest of the AM. We sawed material in the afternoon, and Homer delivered a load of firewood to Pugsley's in St. Joe. We sawed again in the afternoon. My son Michael, went along with Homer to deliver the firewood.

Friday, we sawed until 3:00, with all 4 of us working. Then, 3 of us continued to saw. A couple loads of sawdust were loaded.

Saturday, October 26th, Homer went to Arthur Johnson's, to dig a trench for a corn crib, as he is still picking his corn. When Homer got home, he worked pallets, and loaded sawdust, till noon. We sawed in the afternoon, until supper, the sawing was part of two custom jobs.. One for Shoudel's, and the other was for Jim Reas. After supper, Homer worked on the new mill building, for an hour.

Monday, Homer figured Knowles logs and sent his check. He then worked in the mill all day. In the evening, he went to see the surveyor, regarding his mother's house and property. He is trying to get that wrapped up, so it will be ready when there is a buyer for it.

Tuesday the 29th, I just got back to the Knowles log deliveries. We have received about 100,000 feet since early June, and have paid out over $12,000.00 for it. Homer just made agreement with Robert VanLeuven to purchase 73trees for $1,300.00. The contract was nearly like several others. We worked in the mill in the morning. I was sawing, Ted was edging and Homer was cutting up material. After lunch, Homer delivered a description of his mother's property to the surveyor. This saved the surveyor from having to re-survey the whole thing. After that Homer helped the rest of the afternoon in the mill. In the evening, Homer helped Bill notch runners. He also had paperwork to finish, and did not finish till 9:30.

Wednesday, Ted,Homer, and I worked pallets in the morning, and there were two loads delivered to Dana, the last one at 12:30. Homer sawed in the afternoon. When we stopped, Homer took a load of firewood to Cedarville. Homer made a note, "I stopped taking the Aspirin today, I, have been having light headaches, about all the time, and think this might help".

Thursday, Homer notched runners, and Ted and I nailed. Homer unloaded Hen's load of logs, and loaded the County Farm's sawdust. Two loads of fire wood back, Homer was in the first curve on the way out with the wood, and tried to stop when another vehicle was coming and bumped a tree with the truck, on the fender. Today is the day he is bumping the fender back out and trying to get it back close to where it belongs. He noted that he was almost done, and ran out of oxygen, and had to go get some more. Warren came over , he said he will be working for Holman's for quite a while yet. If it is too wet, he will probably come to the mill.

Harry, has been working at several different woods. He has been at Bowman's, Wagner, next to Maldeny, Storer, some from the Newville Cemetery, and Maldeny's this month.

The month's deliveries of firewood, custom sawing, and farm lumber, Don Shoudel of Churubusco, Ind. purchased a large quantity of framing lumber, Don Inlow, fence boards, Paul Richter, fence boards, Rosco Barron, "Hen" the log hauler for Knowles timber. It is nice to actually know his first name. He purchased some lumber to build a cover over his well pit. LaVern Brockhouse, 25 fence posts, Don Sowles, 5-3x8x12', Gilbert A. Richards, 44 pieces of mixed lumber, Neil Prentice, a quantity of 1" lumber, Paul Fetters, 20-2x8x8, Paul VanLeuven, Sawing, Kenneth Koeppe, fence boards, Ethel Davis, 20- fence posts. These amounted to $1,080.00.

The firewood, John Ramer, Arnold Milks, Schlatter, D. Johnson, Green, B. Kruse, K. Roberts. These paid $157.00.

All in all, it has been a very good month, we were really pushed sometimes, but we were able to keep up with the demands, and are feeling blessed to be able to keep going.

The October pallet delivery numbers, Dana, 4,511 pallets, 525 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 285 pallets, New Haven, 625 pallets.

November 1st, a Friday, the morning began with the normal, Make Pallets. We delivered a load at noon, Three of us sawed, Homer doing the mill sawing, Ted, the edger, and I ran the cut off saw making the pallet material. I must have been on fire that day, because Homer said in the notes, "George had it mostly cut up at quitting time". It is a good day when things are going well.

Saturday, Ted and Homer cleaned out in the mill and after I got there, we sawed until noon. All three of us worked in the log yard in the afternoon, which was rare. We must have been way behind on having logs cut up and ready to saw.

Monday, We made some pallets, but did not deliver any. It was raining most of the day. We sawed and cut up material the rest of the day. There was a long trailer from Butler & Butler construction, that came in. It had a long Burr Oak on it. They thought it would be welcome at the mill. It had come from the GreenHurst Country Club, out in front and a little South of Morningstar Road. It had been near the road, and the Club was getting ready to build the North parking lot, which Butler & Butler had the contract to build. They donated the log to us, and it was probably 35 feet long. The diameter of the bottom end was around 48 inches. Homer says of the log, "Sure is a big thing----Hope we don't hit any metal". Homer was being prophetic, he knew there would be metal in it, because it had been in a perfect location to have signs nailed all over it. The tree had been there long before Interstate 69 was built, and this was the main North-South road through Auburn.

Tuesday, Ted had already left with a load for Dana, and they called and wanted PE-1406 pallets. We did not have any on the load that was being delivered. So, we got busy and Notched runners and built the pallets, they got delivered just before noon. Homer helped saw in the afternoon, but noted that he could hardly keep going. He says, "I am going to start the Aspirin again tonight".

Wednesday, we made pallets most of the morning, Sawed some to get material, and made 2 loads and delivered them to Dana. All 4 of us sawed in the afternoon, Bill and Ted until 6:30, then Bill till 8. Homer helped Bill after supper. All of my family was there for supper, it is my wife's birthday.

Thursday, the 7th, Pallets left at 8:30 for Dana, and we sawed the rest of the day. It went pretty good. Bill made pallets in the evening.

Friday, Made pallets all morning, Ted took two loads to Dana. Homer took three stacks to Crane-Edmund, and went to their office, to straighten out an invoice error. I left for a commitment at 3:00. Jim Reas came for his lumber, and Homer helped him load it. Homer also loaded a load of logs to go to Mac Keller. He needed some Oak for a job he needed to saw.

Saturday, Homer took the logs to Keller's. After he got back, he sawed up some logs by himself, piling them up to run through the edger later. I got to the mill at noon, and we finished the log he was on and edged the piles. Homer then went to working on the trusses for the section of the new steam mill he has been working on.

Sunday, PM, Homer took a trip to Marshall, Michigan to see Mr. Wildt, who is now in a nursing home. He is now 95 years old and they enjoyed the visit. Mr. Wildt used to be at Belleview, (sawmill).

Monday November 11th, Homer was up at 7:30, it is a nice day. Warren came in, too wet at Holman's to plow. There was supposed to be a new man today, but he did not show up. There was no school today, and Bill did not come either. We worked on pallets till 1:00. Homer took the load to Dana, then filled a grave at the cemetery. Then he went to see Kenneth Turk, and wrote an agreement to purchase timber. Agreement for timber on farm East of Co.Rd. 75 on Co.Rd. 40. Minimum of $60.00 per M, on pallet timber, and $85.00 on better timber. Advance today of $250.00, with $500.00 on 12-27-1974. signed by both parties. After he returned, he worked ½ hour helping. He noted that he wanted to get up at 5:00 in the morning. With that, he says, "it's 7:30, going to bed".

Tuesday, Warren came for 2 hours, and then went to plow. We made pallets a while, then Sawed till 10:00. We delivered 2 loads of pallets today. Homer went to the doctor and got 2 more kinds of medicine, which the doc, thinks will help him. After he returned, he helped saw until 8:00PM. I am in the mill building, in the evening, but do not know if I was sawing or Homer.

Wednesday, We started sawing at 6:30, made a load for Dana, and delivered by early afternoon. Homer delivered a load of fire wood, and when he returned, we sawed from 2;00-5:00. Homer went in and ate supper, and was tired so he laid down on the sofa and slept till 9:00. He then went to bed. He notes that he is resting better with the new medicines.

Thursday, Homer was up at 6:00, out and working pallets in a half hour. It snowed 6" last night, beautiful, but a mess to work in the log yard. We sawed in the afternoon, and Bill did not come in. Ted delivered one load to Dana. Homer went to check the boiler, and found a pipe that had frozen, so he thawed it out. He notes that it is real cold tonight.

Friday, Ralph had been cutting at Ione Wilson's, and is done there. We sawed in the morning. Homer got a message from the house, Dana needs PE-1405's, and he made up 30 for them to come and pick up. At 11:00 we stopped sawing and made up another 100 pallets. Ted delivered them, and Homer delivered a load of fire wood. Bill came and the 4 of us sawed the balance of the time before supper. Homer nailed on New Haven pallets after supper. He notes he feels pretty good, only tired.

Saturday, Ted and Homer made 30 pallets for Dana pickup, and at 10:00, they finished the New Haven load. We sawed from11:00- 3:00. Homer and I worked on the delivery truck, lights, greasing, changing a flat tire, fixing the mount for the gas tank, and started on the steering linkage. Will have to finish that last item Monday morning, early. The load for New Haven is on the truck.

Monday November 18th, the notes are short, Pallets and sawed. I know we had work on the truck, and a load of pallets for New Haven, but it is not mentioned. There is another thing I did not know about, Homer was thinking about how he would get the steam to the next engine, the one that would operate the present mill. His notes for today state, "Worked on drawing for piping to present mill". I never found it or saw it but it was on his mind. I knew he planned to place a steam engine on the pillar he had built near the present mill. It would have had to be underground to insulate it sufficiently.

Tuesday, We started sawing at 7:00 made pallets for noon delivery, to Dana. Homer made the fire wood delivery to Amos Smucker, West of Spencerville, while Ted delivered the pallets. We sawed in the afternoon.

Wednesday, cloudy and misty. Sawed, made pallets, delivered, sawed the rest of the day.

Thursday November 21st, We sawed till 9:30, then notched pallet runners, and made pallets till noon. Ted delivered to Dana, Homer took fire wood to Dale Johnson. We sawed again after 3:00. Homer worked on the newest building, after we stopped sawing. Harry has finished the hauling of Cottonwood from Ione Wilson's, and there was some on the same side of Cedar Creek that belonged to Gene Wilson, Ione's son. After seeing what his mother's trees brought , he decided to sell some as well. Ralph cut both tracts and Harry hauled them.

Friday, we sawed early, then got to work on pallets. At 1:00 we had a load for Dana. We sawed in the PM, and Homer delivered a load of wood to Dale Johnson. Homer worked on building again, till supper. The Black and Decker electric handsaw had stopped working, and Homer took it apart, discovering that the switch was bad, and he would have to go to Basset Electric motor repair, to get a new one.

Saturday, We sawed in the forenoon, and then we stopped for 15 minutes to put up 3 trusses for the building extension. . Homer delivered a load of wood to Prough's in Hicksville. When he returned, he cut up the lumber we had sawed earlier. After Homer left to deliver the wood, I went to the log yard to scale and cut up logs. Something I noticed, Homer had made a purchase of belting from the family of Mr. Wildt, back when he went to see him a while back, in Marshall, Michigan. The belt was 12" wide and 46' long, and was a fabric-woven, rubber impregnated material, like some we had gotten from them before. He did not have a business check, so he paid with a personal check. Now the check book for the mill shows a re-payment of that money, in the amount of $46.00.

Monday, the 25th, Homer was up at 7:30, and out to help us work in a half hour. By 9:30, we had enough to start making the load. Dana, came and got PE-1407's, and we made and delivered a load of PE-1405's. We finished the afternoon, making more lumber and pallets. I went home for supper and then went back to help dad make more 1407's. I went ahead after dad went in and made some 1406's as well.

Tuesday, Homer helped saw and make pallets till noon. Ted and I had loaded and he delivered a load to Dana, before Homer got out to work. We took another partial load after dinner. Homer went to look at trees at Oscar Noel's, southwest of Garrett, and he made an offer. While he was out he got the switch for the electric handsaw. We sawed from 3:30-5:00. After 5:00, I went to get an allergy shot. I had been tested, and found out I was extremely allergic to the vapors from sawing White Ash and Shagbark Hickory. I had gotten to the point, when exposed to either one, I would sneeze, sometimes 8-10 times in succession. Then I would blow my nose, and then I might be good for a while, but recently, it had gotten much worse. The cycle was now from running, snotty nose to blow my nose, sneezing, usually 8-15 times in a row. Then it would start all over. Longer story, short, I never did get better till I stopped sawing the logs.

Wednesday, we sawed all day, Bill called, he had run into a ditch, and lost his muffler, and he was not coming in.

Thursday, Thanksgiving, Homer went out and did a few things, but did not make any pallets. Friday, Bill was there all day, we sawed most of the day.

Saturday, Homer delivered a load of fire wood to Arnold Milks. Then we sawed till noon, and Bill did not come back after. Ted and Homer made pallets, I worked in the log yard.

November pallets delivered, Dana, 3,913 pallets, 745 blocking pieces. We now have two of the blocking piece contracts back again. Crane-Edmund 105 pallets, in two trips, this is their slow time. New Haven, 200 pallets, it is evident that most of our business is with Dana.

I only have one farm lumber slip, Wayne Haynes, custom sawing, his logs, 75-1x6x14', and 70-1x6x8', the sawing was $43.89. The firewood, D.Thompson, Clayton Baker, R. Kemmerling, MarvinDowden. These brought in $68.80.

Sunday, December 1st, it snowed and was blowing, causing drifting of the roads. The temperature was about 32 degrees. Homer's notes say, he went out for a while, to check what we need to do tomorrow. "There needs to be a load leave early tomorrow".

Monday, Warren got there at 6:00. I came very soon thereafter. We got right busy and made pallets and Ted delivered two loads to Dana, and one to Crane-Edmund. Bill did not come in today. Homer notes that he is so stiff and sore, he can hardly go. One timber owner came in, Again, wanting to sell trees that are too small to be of value, and Homer told him, "I just could not do it".

Tuesday, Homer up at 5:30, Warren and Ted out at the same time, at 6:00, and I was there just a few minutes later, about 6:05. We sawed till 9:00, then made pallets until noon. Homer had an appointment in town, and when he got back he helped sort in the pallet building. Warren and Bill made pallets till 8:00. I was again, in the log yard, measuring, cutting, hauling, and stacking logs to saw.

Wednesday, Homer started work at 6:30, we sawed and made pallets in the morning. Ted took a load to Dana, after lunch. We sawed 2x4's for stringers, and 2x2's for the blocking pieces, in the afternoon. Homer went to look at some trees during the afternoon, but he did not say where.

Thursday, we sawed and made pallets till noon, and Ted delivered, Where? Yes, Dana. Remember, what I said a few years back? About the repetitive nature of this work. Writing about it makes one wonder if we still enjoyed what we were doing. We did enjoy it, and, at the time the wages were pretty good. The variety came in the fact that when I was sawing, I would spot a really nice grain , and would motion to whoever was operating the edger, to place it on a pile over just beyond the Hercules. They knew what I meant when I motioned, over there. My father did the same thing, Warren had not been given that privilege, but he knew if running the edger, what the motion meant.

We sawed in the afternoon, and Homer went to work on the roofing on the extension of the boiler building, and about 4:30, we stopped sawing, and I went and helped with the roof for a while. Warren and Bill made pallets in the evening.

Friday, Homer was an early bird, up at 5:00, and at work 40 minutes later. We made pallets in the morning, and Homer worked on the roof in the afternoon. The rest of us sawed more material. During the day, there was a delivery of various items from a company in Chicago. Belt dressing, bolt loosener, gasket sealer, and electric motor spray cleaner. The materials came from Beltraction Co., a division of North American Service Co.

Saturday, 12-7, we sawed plank to edge into 2x4's, and stacked them, meaning it was Homer and I. 4 loads of sawdust, broken mount on a hydraulic cylinder to weld, broken bolts on forklift, fork plate. The cold weather and the hard use took a toll on the equipment, but we were skilled fix-it people.

Monday December 9th, Homer and Ted worked out a load of pallets by 10:00. I sorted material and serviced some of the equipment. I do not know what I did specifically, but there was always some piece of equipment that needed taken care of. Sometimes, it was sharpening saws, others, it was re-building a staple gun, or maybe the chain saws needed to have an air filter cleaned and the fuel and chain oil filled. There was also lubrication work to be done for oil and filter changes. Warren was sick today, and after dinner, we sawed more pallet material. No deliveries today.

Tuesday, Homer and I made 120 notched pallets PE-1406, early, and after Ted came he notched more runners and we made some more of them. We also made PE-1405-1 pallets which were ½ the size of the PE-1405's. That meant they were 17-1/2" x 35", in size. That load was finished and loaded . It left at 10:30. We finished the get ready clean-up in the mill and cut up the last of the lumber that was stacked up and were ready to saw again after lunch. The pallet material we sawed was finished by 3:45, and Homer started sawing again on Harold Surface's custom logs. He sawed one log and today, he was tired enough from all that had been done, he said "That is enough", for today.

Wednesday, Homer finished the Surface logs. Next was another custom job, for Tuttle. It was hog coop framing, floor, and siding material. That was the morning. Bill did not come in today. Dana called for 1405's, to be delivered in the morning. Warren had gone home at noon. So, we made pallets all afternoon, and Homer helped after supper, to get them finished. I loaded them and they were ready.

Thursday, We sawed early, and Ted took the pallets. Mom got a call from I & M Electric, they wanted to talk to Homer. What he learned was that, Mr. Rentschler thought there was still some hope, of our business getting a 3 phase power line, yet. Warren went to the doctor, at noon, and was back in the afternoon. Mr. Tuttle came for his lumber.

Friday, made another, load for Dana in the morning. Homer and some one of us helped him with the new building in the afternoon. Bill not here again. We got the rest of the South side on and some of the North side. Homer was feeling good today.

Saturday, we were ready to saw at 8:00. Homer sawed, Ted ran the edger, and I cut up the material. It was foggy yesterday, and it is again today. I left at noon, and Homer and Ted worked on more of Tuttles lumber for hog coops. In making that lumber, there were some logs that had material that was not fit for the coop's, and that was made into pallet material. Tuttles lumber amounted to 800 feet, and there was probably 200 more feet that went into pallet material.

Monday, the 16th, Homer sawed for a while, then he left to dig a grave. When he got back, he delivered a load of fire wood to Johnson's at noon. Warren had been sawing, and I was probably cutting up the material, with Ted at the edger. Homer says in the notes, Warren hit 2 nails with a new set of teeth in the saw. A note about nails, sometimes you can see there will be metal by looking at the wood as you saw, sometimes, you can see a color change in the wood or a funny grain, one cut before the metal. Sometimes there is not a sign that there is anything there. We did not have any equipment to check before hand, like a large eltro- magnetic field or anything. On White Oak, there would be a purple color to the wood, to let you know there was steel nearby. In our case there was always a risk.

Tuesday, we sawed and made pallets early, and they went out about mid morning. Homer worked in the pallet building in the afternoon. I believe I was sawing, and Bill came to talk to me while I was turning a log. The log slipped enough end ways to bump him in the leg. He has a sore leg.

Crane Edmund Corp.
called 12-11-74 for price of new pallet
#274 Seat Sink Pallet 28" x 41½"
4- 4" boards running across Pallet
3 supports underneath
~~Gary~~ Gave price by phone $2.10 each.
Ordered 50 pieces 10 new Bal. released by phone as needed

December 18th, We sawed all day, except for a little while in the morning, when we loaded a load for Dana, and Ted took them. Homer went to take care of the bond, for the timber buyer's license, for the new year. The bond is based on how much timber you are purchasing, and we had moved to a new level, and had to increase the amount of the bond, to $3,000.00. Bill was not here, his mother called, he went to the doctor, and he has a blood clot in his leg, and is supposed to keep it up and not walk around. Homer got a call from Jake Eicher today, desiring to purchase Wild Cherry lumber.

On another note, someone Homer has been talking to told him about a Chiropractor in the Huntertown area, that might be able to help him with the arthritis. He is going to see him next week.

The 19th, we sawed ½ of the morning. By 1:15, we had a load ready for Dana. We sawed again after 3:00. In the evening, Homer worked on some things in the boiler building.

Friday, Warren, Ted, Homer and myself sawed all day, and cut up material. The storage area in this building is full of lumber, both cut up and sawed, to cut up into size. The mill we use is capable of sawing a tremendous quantity of lumber per hour, but as you have read, most days, we are only able to saw for 2-3 hours at a time. It is really nice to see a large amount of lumber ready to make pallets with.

Saturday, dad and I were the only ones at the mill. We worked on service, including oiling the roller barn doors on all of the buildings. I cleaned up an area in the old farm barn to store the F-20, and Homer moved it to there.

Monday, all the material that had been sawed and was stored, was either moved to make pallets or still needed to be cut up. Homer and Warren made pallets most of the day. I had service work to do the carriage of the mill. There were other items that needed attention as well. Warren's parents were now moved and they were only a little over a mile from the mill. Warren said Homer should go over and check out the items they had no use for, and take them. He came back with some pipe and other items.

Tuesday December 24th, the other's were not there,including myself. Homer did make some pallets. Dana was off till after the first of the year.

Thursday, We sawed all day again. Friday, Again, sawed all day. Harry is hauling, Hard, meaning a lot. Ernie, came to see us, and helped Homer a little. They visited too. The weather is moderate. Saturday, Made pallets 7:10. I sorted logs. The others went home. Monday, the 30th, moved lumber and pallet material to building. We made pallets in anticipation of next year.

December 31st, Homer took Harry to Daniel's to see the next woods. Load of fire wood delivered.

Farm lumber, fire wood, and custom lumber, Harold Surface, custom sawing, Chalmer Tuttle, hog coop lumber, several loads of fire wood, some not recorded.

Pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,965 pallets, and 525 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmaund, 204 pallets, New Haven, none. It has been a good year, and hard at times, but we got through it. There was a gross income of $163,032.45. and only a net income of $4263.92, but there was cash flow to do many things. All is good. The electric bill was up this month to, $58.04. We all got an extra weeks vacation pay at the end of the year too.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

# REGISTERED RETAIL MERCHANT CERTIFICATE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

EXPIRES DECEMBER 31
1975
CERTIFICATE NO.
244557 03

ABELS SAWMILL INC
R R 1
AUBURN IN 46706

IS AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT INDIANA RETAIL SALES TAX
AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT FROM THE ABOVE.

COUNTY NUMBER

POSTED BY MERCHANT IN LOCATION SHOWN

---

STATE OF INDIANA

License Number C0207

This is to certify that Homer Abel

(signature of buyer)

whose signature is shown above is an employee of and is authorized by Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

to act in their behalf as a timber buyer under the provisions of the above numbered license. The Licensee is bonded in the maximum amount of $3,000.00

EXPIRES
DEC. 31, 1975

Homer Abel
Signature of Licensee

By Authority of Its Director—Dept. of Natural Resources

# STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## LICENSED TIMBER BUYER
## 1975

C 0207

Filing fee 25.00
Certificate fee 5.00
30.00

This is to certify that Abel's Sawmill, Inc,

of Route #1 (Street Address) Auburn (City)

State of Indiana is hereby licensed to do business as a Timber Buyer in Indiana under the provisions of the Acts of 1972, Public Law 190.

ISSUED AT INDIANAPOLIS

December 31, 1974

Expires December 31, 1975

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
— by Authority of its Director

(Seal)

John T Patera

Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

Route 1 Auburn, Indiana 46706

Auburn, Indiana

Jan 2, 1975

We find it necessary to send an increase in price for any new pallet orders as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Pedal pallets 36" x 36" | $2.00 each |
| Schwinn pedal pallets 32" x 40" | $2.00 each |
| Cycle 38" x 46" | $2.37 each |
| Seat link 29" x 29" | $1.54 each |
| Seat link 32" x 44" | $1.95 each |
| Baby seat 43" x 44" | $2.00 each |

We will still finish old orders at the price we accepted on the previous orders.

Sincerely,

Homer Abel, Pres.

Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

This was originally hand written, but would not copy.

The new year, January 1st, 1975, begins with Homer making pallets from 10:00-12:00. He and the grandchildren had dinner, then Homer and Mike went to get the Allis-Chalmers skidding tractor. It had a flat tire, so they made another trip. After they got back, Homer made some more pallets. My wife and I joined them, when we came to get the children, and we had supper and played games.

Thursday, the 2nd, Pallet making all morning, and a load to Dana, after lunch. Homer went to Wilson's, then to Bill LaRowe's, to look at the bridge that would have to be crossed to get to the woods. While he was gone, Ted and Warren were making pallets. When Homer got back, he worked on a small door for the entrance to the boiler building. I spent part of the afternoon moving and re-arranging the stacks of pallets that were being stored in the building. We were making the pallets at this time back near the middle of the 1960 section of the building. That left all of the 1965 section, and some of the other one for stacking pallets. When I finished the moving and arranging, there were 51 stacks of pallets in the building. The maximum height of the stacks was 17 pallets high. That meant most of the stacks were over 7-1/2 feet high. The floor was all concrete, and we had a hand pallet jack to move them around. There was also a LP powered forklift in the building, but we were in tight quarters and could not use it for what I was doing. The rest of the day, I was in the log yard.

Friday, Homer helped in the log yard in the morning. Warren and Ted made pallets, and Ted delivered a load to Dana, by 10:30. We sawed in the afternoon, and Homer went to Garman's to look at Cottonwood trees, and it took about an hour.

Saturday, Ted and Warren nailed up pallets, in the morning. Homer sorted material, and moved it to the pallet making location. Homer worked on clean up in the original mill area, because we were not running the mill there, the area was beginning to collect things, and the OSHA inspector would not like that. Don Inlow brought in 2 wagon loads of logs that he wanted us to saw into lumber for him. Homer unloaded the logs as they arrived. Homer is "lame" tonight, and has had a sore throat for 2 days. I will make note, he has been on a different diet, and it is helping some. He has not had joint pain, since he started the diet, that the Chiropractor at Huntertown gave him. Muscle pain, some, but not the joint pain.

Monday January 6th, Homer has a cold, and is just "puttering" around, at various chores. He did help sorting logs, and pallet material. I took the load of pallets to New Haven, and then to Sutherland Lumber. I picked up the boards for the small stacking strips, and 1/2" insulation board, Metal roofing, and stopped and picked up the next supply of staples. The staples are located west of St. Francis College, about a ½ mile. The boards for the strips, are higher in price that they were, at $117.83 for enough for 1,000 pieces. The other men, were either sawing or making pallets in the afternoon.

Tuesday, There were two loads going to Dana, and Homer was busy elsewhere. He got a call from the surveyor, concerning his mother's survey, and Homer needed to go help with the markers located in the road, so he borrowed an air compressor and then chiseled out the black top in the road where the surveyor indicated, and the steel pins were right where they were supposed to be. After Homer returned, he worked in the log yard till 2:00. Then he had other appointments. We had been sawing after Ted returned from the pallet delivery.

Wednesday, Homer took the load of pallets to Dana, at mid-morning. The crew was making pallets for Crane-Edmund early, and then Sawed in the afternoon. 5 people in the mill and got a lot done. Homer loaded two loads of sawdust for Harry Gorrell, after 5:00. He was raising hogs at that time.

The Stanley Garman timber, was all Cotton wood, and the contract is brief. Minimum of $65.00 per M. $700-800 minimum on the whole thing, and Harry is to start on it on the 9th, of January.

Harry, Homer and myself have our license to buy timber, through Abel's Sawmill, Inc. for the new year. The newest electric bill is $59.88, which is up some. We are getting along quite well with the 100 Amp fuses, have not burned any in a long time.

Thursday, January 9th, A load to Dana, in the process, of chaining the load down, Ted threw a chain that hit the back window of the truck and broke it. After Ted returned, we sawed the remainder of the morning. Homer delivered a load of wood to Johnson, after dinner. Homer went to Garman's to show Harry where and what, to start the timber cut there.

Friday the 10th, Homer helped with pallets in the morning. Dana called , they need 1406 pallets. The pallets went at 8:30, and we sawed for an hour before lunch, and then all afternoon. Bill did not come in today.

Saturday, Homer went to Cecil Brown's to get a truck window for the International truck. He put the window in , and then went to Tractor Supply to pick up batteries and oil filters. They cost, $62.68. He notes that it is very cold and windy today.

Monday the 13th, Homer up at 6:15, at work at 6:45, he worked in the morning on pallets. Ted took the load to Dana, and later, Homer took 50 used pallets to Crook-Milller. The, Homer delivered a load of fire wood to Lester Pugsley, and he got home at 6:00.

Tuesday, Homer is sorting pallet material, and helped with making them. He loaded the load and delivered to Dana. The rest of us started to saw at 11:00, before he loaded the pallets. Hen and Harry came in with logs after Homer returned, and he unloaded their logs. Hen brought two loads, and Harry one, from Daniel's. At ten minutes to five, the reverse gear on the mill carriage broke. The rest of the crew worked on edging, cutting up and other things for another ½ hour. Homer says, he worked on paperwork until 9:30.

Wednesday, Homer went to Angola, to Superior Repair Service and for $31.80, they will make a new gear for the set works. They were able to price the gear before they made it. Homer went from Angola , to Fort Wayne, to the accountant's to correct some paper work. When he got home, he took the rest of the set works apart, so the new gear can be installed. Homer unloaded a load of logs Harry brought in, the 2nd, today.

Thursday, Homer went and got the gear, and installed it. The rest of us were making pallets, while he was gone and until he installed the gear. He helped saw after the repairs had been made. After 5:00, he took a load of fire wood somewhere. Ted was out sick today.

Friday, Ted is still sick, Warren, dad and myself sawed, after 10:00. No Bill today. Had a flat tire on the forklift at noon. Homer patched tires till 4:00. Then we sawed Marvin Dowden's lumber.

Saturday, Homer helped Warren notch runner's, till mid-morning. Dad and I worked some more on flat tires, and the the 2 of us went to Harold J. Smith's auction. Homer bought a few things. truck mirrors, tractor chains, and other. What Homer really wanted, the 1954 Chevy truck, went too high.

Monday January 20th, We made pallets in the morning, Homer delivered them, after lunch. Homer worked in the mill when he returned, for the rest of the day. Inlow's brought another load of logs on a wagon, and Homer unloaded them. We got a lot accomplished today.

Tuesday, pallets in the morning, and Hen came in twice today, and we unloaded his truck. Ted is feeling better but still not 100%, but is back today. Homer left in the afternoon to dig a grave, and said, there is 8-10" of frozen dirt, fairly hard. When he got back, he had 3-4 phone calls to make. We sawed almost all day, and had a lot of material ready to assemble.

Homer started Wednesday, delivering a load of fire wood to Mr. Johnson. I left at the same time with a load of pallets to Dana. When we returned, we both helped with the pallets till Bill came, then we sawed. Homer was moving logs, and unloaded a load that Hen brought in. Homer left to go fill the grave, and it was almost quitting time when he returned.

Warren has hurt his back some how, and is uncomfortable most of the time. He is going to a doctor, in Michigan, soon.

Thursday, We worked pallets in the morning, Hen came with the last load from Angola, and his boss, Fred Knowles came to get his money for the last while. While Fred was here, Homer showed him the Walnut we had brought in from several tracts recently, and he purchased the grade logs, from the lot. Homer worked on the log yard some and sorted logs. We, as a family, celebrated our youngest daughter's birthday, she is 3 today.

Friday, we all worked pallets in the morning, till 9:30. Homer sorted logs, and the rest of sawed the rest of the morning, and all afternoon. Work went well, and we made a lot of material for next week.

Saturday, 1-25-75, Homer had the place to himself, and he did not get up till 9:00. We always discussed what we were going to do on Saturday, in the evening before the others left on Friday. So Homer knew he was lone ranger today. He did not get out to the buildings, until after dinnertime. His comments were, worked a little bit on various things, in the pallet building in the afternoon. "Don't feel very good, dizzy".

Monday the 27th, Homer was up at 6:30, and ½ hour later he is at work. We made pallets in the morning, and Mike got sick at school, and grandma G'Nell had to go get him. Not sure where my wife was, but she was not available. I did not feel well at noon, and I went home. I had to be quite sick to go home, as I usually worked through whatever I had. Homer, did not feel good either, and he went in and laid down, till 3:00. Bill did not come in today. Homer had a grave to dig and he went to do that with the backhoe at 4:00. He got back at 6:30. He is feeling better than he did at noon. Warren came in before work from his parents, a mile and one half away, with a large bag of filleted Bluegill fish.

Tuesday, Homer at work at 7:00, and he is stenciling the pallets for New Haven. The rest of were making pallets, and Ted delivered a load to Dana, both morning and afternoon. Homer helped cut up what we were sawing, and Warren went to the doctor, (sick), at 10:30. Ted left at 4:30 to go to the doctor, and Neither Homer or myself felt good.

Wednesday, the New Haven pallets were taken by Homer, and he went to the accountant, and got more staples. He got back at 1:30, and helped in mill. Warren went to Chiropractor about his back.

To finish Wednesday, The sawing went pretty well, and when Homer had time after the last person left, he unloaded the staples. He put the battery charger of the backhoe battery, so it must not have been charging well or the battery was just weak. He notes that he had supper at 5:30.

Thursday, Homer loaded the pallets for Dana, and Ted took them, at 8:15. Homer and I sorted logs, the rest of the morning. Ted and Bill made pallets, what they had time for. Warren is home today, to see if his back will respond to the adjustments the Chiropractor made. Homer notes, "Tired, but joints feel better than usual, but muscles sore".

Friday, the 31st, Homer started at 7:15, loading pallets for Crane-Edmund, 25- 38"x58", trial size. Ted delivered them. Homer was running the pallet notcher, and when Ted returned, that became his job. Homer went to load the Walnut on Knowles truck. We sawed in the afternoon, Homer, Ted, and I. Bill did not come in. Warren did not come, but he is resting his back, yet. All in all it went well.

The end of the month again, pallet production, Dana, 3,789 pallets, and 2,975 blocking pieces. We are now making 3 of the 4 types of blocking pieces for Dana again. Crane-Edmund, 215 pallets. New Haven, 575 pallets.

The custom lumber fire wood, and farm lumber. Fire wood, Clayton Baker, and Kenneth Roberts, $36.00, and there were 9 that ordered for delivery in February and March. The farm lumber, Marvin Dowden, Roger Terry, Chalmer Tuttle, and Howard S. Grimm. They paid a total of $190.00 for lumber.

Saturday,the 1st. Homer feels good today. Homer used the forklift to bring in the material, and Ted started on the PE-1406, that the stringers had been notched for. Homer made the upper level door for the steam building just beyond the boiler, it is a roller type door. That closed up that area of the building from the weather completely. I sorted logs and made good progress today. Homer echoed the comments of this past Thursday, about his joints and muscles.

Monday, the 3rd, of February, We started on pallets, and Bill came early, and by 10:00, we were sawing. Homer sawed the whole day except for a little bit when he took Thomas Mack a load of wood. Homer says,"Awful tired and sore tonight". What he did would make most people tired, but his tired is different, he does not recover as well as someone who is younger.

Oscar Noel, and his brother, Ralph, talked to Homer, and came to agreement and it is short. 28 marked trees, mostly dead, $500.00. in full. Remove in the Summer of 1975, as soon as possible. My comment, Harry as a buyer looked at the woods, when he got there to cut, and talked to the brothers and they agreed that there were additional trees that needed to be taken. Note, that this woods had been grazed by cattle, and there were a lot of open areas because of it. Also a lot of root damage.

Tuesday, the 4th, We sawed early, and Homer was running the edger, till noon. We continued to saw the rest of the day. Homer had other commitments. Harry came late in the day after Homer was back, and Levi Pfister, came to talk to Homer about trees he had for sale.

Wednesday, Homer sorted material, also helped with the pallet making, all day. Ted Delivered a load, to Where? Bill is sick today. Homer, "Tired tonight, can hardly move".

Harry has been cutting and hauling from Daniel's, and has started LaRowe's, recently.

Thursday, February 6th, We worked on pallets early. The OSHA man came about 9:30. He was pretty reasonable. Homer had a grave to dig, and the rest of us sawed. Homer delivered a load of wood to Clayton Baker, after digging the grave.

Friday, Homer helped us make pallets early. We started sawing after dinner. And continued all afternoon. About 1:30, Homer went to fill the grave. We continued to saw. He returned about 4:00, and helped in the mill. The three that were sawing when he left for the cemetery, were Ted, Warren, and myself. Homer's notes say, "The three sawed quite a pile, while I was gone".

Saturday, Homer is following up on the things the OSHA inspector wanted done. He is making a shield for the stringer notcher. He also is working on the wiring in the building, it is all 2 wires for the electric outlets. It needs to be upgraded to 3 wires. Homer, asked the inspector if it would be good if he just added a single wire, coated with green coating, and change the outlets to accommodate the 3rd. Wire. He had said yes. So Homer is figuring how much wire it will require to do it. The air Compressor was being run with a set of wire that was too light a gauge wire. Homer got the wire cut and attached to the wall, ready to change it over to the larger wire. The guard was finished today.

Monday, Homer had other appointments, and did not return until 11:15. Reading the time frame, the frost in the ground is solider than it was a few weeks ago. I say this because, he rested when he got home, and ate dinner, then at 1:30 he went back to fill the grave. He finally returned at 4:15. He never did get in the mill today, because his notes say, he did paperwork that dealt with the cemetery. They needed a list of the number of spaces that were left to sell. He got done about 8:30.

Tuesday, Homer helped with pallets, loading and sorting material, till noon. He delivered a load of fire wood to Johnson's, and finished the wiring of the compressor. After that, he helped upload a load of logs, scale logs, and cut and move them to the piles. He was pushing the upgrades that had been required by the OSHA inspector, because he would be back to see if the items had been changed.

Wednesday, February 12th, Homer went with Harry to see where and what to cut at VanLeuven's woods, just about 2 miles West of the mill. Pfister's had logs that Homer had agreed to take and they were going to deliver them to the mill, for an agreed price. They brought the last of those logs today. Homer worked some in the log yard, also in the mill. Toward the end of the day, He commented in his notes, "Don't feel very good, dizzy".

Thursday, Homer is out and feels good again, he is working on the pallets, and we started sawing at 9:00. Homer sawed from then until noon. I was a the doctor's during that time, getting an adjustment, and a allergy shot. The allergy really is not any better, but I will keep hoping it will do some good. I helped saw in the afternoon, and we had a very productive day. Homer kept the log deck filled with logs for us, and that is really helpful. Homer took a load of wood to Mrs. Briggs. When he got back, he worked some more on the outlet wiring. My family was out for supper, both so the grand parents could see the kids, also so my wife could see me.

Friday, we sorted and made pallets in the morning. Ted took the load to Dana. I sawed a couple of Walnut logs for Romey Maxwell, and then we went back to sawing 2x4's for runners for the pallets. No Bill today. Donald Friend was the supervisor of the DeKalb County Farm Mutual fire insurance Company, and he came to check on how much coverage we had and how much we really needed. We did raise the amount of fire insurance.

Saturday, February 15th, we did not have a crew today, I stayed home.. Homer went out at 10:00, and he worked on some of the electric projects toward the OSHA required changes. He made made a list of the parts and materials that would be needed to finish the work. He didn't feel good, was dizzy.

Monday, Homer worked pallets in the AM, then he went to Fort Wayne to get the parts and materials for the electric work. The crew spent the day working pallets, and when Homer got back, he helped with pallets. Then he finished the New Haven load, and loaded them ready to ship.

Tuesday, Homer started on the electric right away, and Ted took the load to New Haven. Next, Homer delivered a load of fire wood to Chuck Burkmire. He worked in the mill till Bill came, then put logs on the deck. The Harry came with a load of logs, and Homer unloaded them. The crew sawed most of the day. Homer finished the ground wire work in the front section of the building.

Wednesday, we sawed again, most of the day, with some pallets toward the end of the day. Homer finished the building wiring changes.

Thursday, we all worked pallets for most of the morning, and sawed in the afternoon. Mid-afternoon, Homer started in the log yard again. Later, he finished the switch for the compressor.

Friday, the 21st, We finally shipped 2 loads to Dana, one early and the other after lunch. Homer moved and sorted logs and loaded sawdust. He ended up working in the log yard all day. Ralph, came for his check, and, Homer noted that Ralph will start on Scott Hook's timber next. We sawed custom lumber in the afternoon.

Levi Pfister, Is finished hauling logs to our mill, there were over 13,000 feet brought in, and we paid $1,705.75 for them. That meant, the dollars per M, was $125.00. The were nice, clean logs and there were Oak, Hickory, Beech, Maple, and Ash. They were well worth the money.

Wayne Moore Logging of Ligonier, Indiana, called and wanted to sell us their pallet logs. Marvin Rickman of Pleasant Lake, Indiana, came by and wanted to purchase Walnut veneer logs, as well as other standing timber. I don't believe we worked with either one of them.

Homer went to All-Phase Electric Supply Co. to get the items he needed to repair and change the electric to comply with what the OSHA inspector wanted. He spent $38.04 there, and another $35.00 at Tractor Supply for the project.

Saturday, Homer cut and marked logs all morning long, and I moved them to their proper stacks. We used lumber crayons to mark the ends of the cut logs, so it was pretty easy to determine where they were to be put. The crayons came in red, black, and blue, and there was an orange paint stick type that would work on wet wood. The Yellow worked on the darker wood, the red was the one we used the most, and the orange was used two ways, wet wood and when the others would not work.

In the afternoon, we worked in the pallet building, and the mill building. We were putting in shelves to store items on and cleaning up, so the inspector would not want us to clean up so much. It is a good thing, because it made it easier to locate some of the spare parts and materials we had. Some of these items had a common storage area before the cleanup and were not able to be seen, because they were stacked. Now they would be nearer to the area where they would be used.

Monday, February 24th, Homer sorted and organized the pallet material, ready for making. Ted and Warren, made pallets til 10;45, then they came to the mill, to help me while I sawed a custom job, sawing Wild Cherry. Bill notched pallet stringers. Homer had sharpened the knives on the notcher, and it cut a lot freer now. Homer went on to re-wire the small cut off saw in the pallet building, then various other odd jobs. Homer worked on invoices after supper.

Tuesday, Homer delivered the fire wood to Clayton Baker, and was using the cut-off saw in the pallet building, and when Bill came, he shut it off. When he went to start the cut-off saw again, it would not start. The custom sawing went quite well, and there was also White Oak as part of the job, which was sawed into 1x5's, for gate material. When we finished the custom job, we went to sawing 1/2" material for the PE-1405's. Bill helped in the mill. Homer was now working on a wood floor in the area behind the Belsaw mill. This area was about 5' wide and 18' long, and would make a good place for some of the lesser used items.

Wednesday, Homer started by welding a pulley for the Edger in the mill area, he put it back on that edger and replaced the belt joint with belt lacing. The pulley, was a ½ split type, that was bolted together. It seems that for some reason it needed welding. Likely, the bolt mounts had come apart, and that was what needed welding. Almost all of the flat belt pulleys that we were using were already used when we got them. Many were already more than 60 years old. There were some pulleys, that were cast steel, and most of those were over 90 years old and had come from the Wildt mill in Belleview, Michigan.

The rest of Wednesday's work, we sawed, from late in the morning, till 4:30. We did pretty well. Homer took Johnson's fire wood, after 5:00. The truck quit charging while I was down there.

Thursday, 27th, Homer started with a little clean up in the pallet building, and filled the log deck with logs, ready for us to saw when we got there. Ted, Warren, and I sawed again, on more custom, Cherry, and 1x5's. Homer loaded Littlejohn's lumber. Homer went in and sorted the material for the PE-1405's and when Bill came, he made them.

Friday, helped Harry unload his logs, these are from VanLeuven's. Harry came twice in the morning. Homer loaded the rest of the logs to make lumber for Burkmire's. The next custom sawing logs, were loaded on the deck and they were for DuWayne Baker, for fence boards. Homer worked in the pallet building. Loaded some sawdust. Bill cut up in the morning, and made pallets in the afternoon. Late in the day, Homer took care of some paperwork.

Saturday, Again dad and I worked in the log yard marking, sorting, and piling, most of the day.

Monday, Homer loaded pallets, Ted took them. Warren made pallets a while. Homer wrote checks, and we sawed after Bill came. Homer went back to the log yard and sorted more logs. While doing that, he had to stop and load sawdust. He had to change out the truck that was being loaded with slab wood too.

Tuesday, Dad and I finished the last of a load of pallets, for Dana, and Ted took them. We sawed til he got back, then all of worked in the mill, till Bill came. Homer then sorted logs and Harry came and got unloaded. Homer still needed more electric parts for his work, so he went to Fort Wayne again. After Homer ate supper, he went out and organized in the pallet making area, getting ready, for more.

I'm late with the end of the month for February, so, Dana, 2,183 pallets, notice how few, we are really slow. Crane-Edmaund, 150 pallets, New Haven, 100 pallets. This slow down began, slowly in December, and has gotten worse. We have all taken a cut in pay, and continue on. Note, at the time, I did not really notice the slow down much, because, even though I knew we were making less pallets, we were staying quite busy.

The farm lumber, custom and fire wood report. Fire wood, Thomass Mack, Clayton Baker, Chuck Burkmire, Johnson, Briggs, Henry Link. These got a total of 9 loads of wood in February. $, $126.00. The farm and custom lumber, Willard Pabst, Alverl Pettigrew, Arnold Milks, Romey Maxwell, Forrest Littlejohn, and I do not have dollar totals for these.

Wednesday March 5th, There were several piles of mixed lumber on the lot, for customers to select, if they were not looking for a large quantity of material. Homer went through them and totaled each pile and put a price on the whole pile. He stocked the log deck, and we sawed, till Bill came. Homer unloaded Harry's 2 loads of logs. He also delivered a load of fire wood to Garrett. Homer made a note that the telephone man came and put in a 2nd. Phone. At that time, the phone company did all of this type of work, and this phone was in the basement of the house, because my mother was there, quite a bit either doing laundry, or firing the wood furnace. She was getting weary, trying to get to the phone on the main floor, and this would improve life for her. She did other things while in the basement too. It was warmer there in the winter. Back to the mill, Homer put more logs on the log deck, then went to work in the pallet making area. Walter Reas, came to get some of his lumber. Homer makes a note that "we burned brush on the ash pile", I think this meant that they trimmed the bushes around the house and carried them about 60 feet beyond the house and burned them. He says, "Smoke,Whew!".

Thursday, we took a load of pallets to Dana, at 8:00. Worked on making pallets a while, then sawed on farm lumber for DuWayne Baker. I loaded the deck with the next batch of custom lumber for Keith Culler. Homer worked at clean up , and moved pallet material to the building. Homer then took Harry to Buford Brand's to see what and where in that woods. Homer sorted pallet material for Bill , so when he came, it would be ready. After 3:30, Homer cut up material in the mill.

Friday, I loaded the load for Dana, Ted took them. Warren and Homer, made pallets toward a load for Crane-Edmund, (only 50). Homer delivered them. We sawed custom lumber till 3:30, then PE-1407 material for Dana. Homer finally got back to the small cut off saw that quit running a few days ago. He installed a motor, and then discovered , he should have looked at the rating plate. The new motor looked like the one he took off, same brand but, it was only ½ HP, instead of 1-1/2 HP, OOPs. "Kind of Weak", were his written words in the book. We had carts in the pallet building, for sorting onto, so they could be moved to where we were making the pallets, and one of them, had a weak handle, so Homer replaced it with a better handle.

Saturday, the 8th, dad and I worked together today, somewhat unusual, as we often talked briefly and then went to do different jobs. Today, we worked on the rear roller doors on the pallet building. These doors were originally on a barn West of the mill about a mile and one half, that was being torn down. We worked on oiling the rollers. And in the process, discovered that they needed some re-nailing, as well as some bracing to stiffen them corner to corner. We also sorted some Hard Maple in the building and re-piled it. This was some we had saved as we were sawing, one board at a time, over time. Homer's note for the day, "Enjoyed working alone with George".

Monday, the 10th, Homer out at 7:30, he helped get ready, and started sawing-custom, 1x5x16', usually White Oak. That was the most of the sawing today. Bill made pallets for Dana, and Homer built guards,(per OSHA direction, it was needed), around main drive, and the husk area where the main shaft powers the forward and reverse of the carriage. Homer next writes,"Received OSHA letter today, three $10.00 fines –thievery by law", and I still have some fixing to do.

Tuesday, Homer is cleaning up some more, in the mill till Ted and Warren come. They started to saw at about 8:15, and it went pretty good. We finished the 10' boards and the 7' posts for Pizza King. Homer went to Crook-Miller, and to see Sam Hook. It is okay to leave Hook's woods for a while. Hicksville will take a coupe of loads of Ash. Homer put lumber in the barn, in the afternoon, this to get it out of the OSHA inspectors view, because that is not part of the sawmill operation. Homer went to see Jake Eicher after work.

Homer starts Wednesday by, cleaning up some more, he really does not "Want" to, but the OSHA man holds the cards, so to speak. When Ted and Warren come, he helps as they start sawing about 8:30. Homer finished filling the log deck with logs for pallet material. Warren was sawing and Homer was cutting the material, meaning Ted was operating the edger today. From the way this reads, I was probably in the log yard. Homer comments, "I cut up what I could, but kept losing out, though". He was doing good, but the next sentence says it all. He went out to unload Harry's load of logs, and then, loaded the load of Ash, which he took to Hicksville. After supper 2-1/2 hours, he is still working, sorting and getting ready for 3 lots of pallets, 25 of each, for Crane-Edmund. Bill is not in today, he called and said he had something else he needed to do.

Thursday, the 13th, Homer took the Wild Cherry to Jake Eicher's, after 8:00. I have a doctor appointment, and am later. Ted and Warren made the Crane-Edmund pallets, and Homer loaded them at 10:15. Ted took them. Then Warren worked with Bill on New Haven pallets and then on Dana, PE-1406 pallets. Homer delivered fire wood to Neuser's, and then greased the steering on the red truck. Homer loaded another load of Ash and delivered it to Hicksville. When he got back, he worked on more of the items related to the OSHA mandate.

Friday, we made the pallets that Dana needed, then Ted, Warren, and I started sawing, on the Cherry, and the Locust fence posts. Homer loaded the Dana pallets, and Ted took them along home, so he could go from there to Dana. Warren took the afternoon off. We started sawing again after lunch, and made good progress. Harry came in with a load of logs, from Brand's. Homer loaded a load of sawdust for Koeppe's. We got a notice in the mail from Townsend Brothers Inc, that their telephone area code had changed effective the 15th, of March.

Saturday, Homer and Ted made 150 pallets for Dana till noon. I worked in the log yard, scaled and sorted. Later, Homer worked at cleaning up south of the furnace. He then stenciled 200 New Haven pallets. They had to be stenciled on both sides. Next, Homer started wiring up the electric box for the elevator for the notcher shavings. I think it had temporary wiring, and that was one of the items that was written up.

Monday March 17th, Homer got things ready to make Dana, PE-1403 pallets, these are the ones with blue paint on one runner on each end. Bill came, and made those pallets till noon. He also notched stringers. Loaded the New Haven pallets and Ted took them. Homer took fire wood to Johnson's. At the end of the day, Homer took what wood we had in the truck, to his house, at mill.

You have probably noticed, there are no comments about how Homer felt, health wise,which means that his diet is working.

Tuesday the 18th, Homer loaded the pallets for Dana, but they were not delivered today. Worked at sorting material, and loaded Littlejohn's lumber He then moved material around in the pallet building. Logs were put on the deck, and it is not evident whether we sawed today or not. I think we did. There were some pallets made.

Wednesday, Ted took the pallets. We sawed and then Homer sorted pallet material. He moved logs, and all was going well, when part of the belt lacing pulled out of one side of the final drive belt. We got it repaired, and sawed some more. Homer noted that he came in at 7:00 PM.

Thursday, began with Ted and Bill making some pallets for Dana, before we started sawing. Warren was sawing, and I was cutting up the material, Ted was the edger man. By the time we had made 4 pallets full of material, it was going good, and all of the sudden, bang and the saw stopped in a cut. The main flat belt broke at the lacer joint. That happened at 3:00PM. Homer, had been making special pallets for Donald Johnson, to store his seed corn, for sales. Ted sorted after the belt broke. The family was out this evening, and after supper I had a tire changing party, taking off two tires and replacing with new ones, on my family car. It all went well.

Friday, Homer finished the seed corn pallets. I worked on the drive belt repair, and finished it. I then went to moving logs on the log yard. Ted sorted pallet material. Later we all worked on the roof trusses, and got one up and got the ridge board in. Meaning that the one truss we put in was the far out one, or the ridge could not have been put in. I cut in the the roof angle, and Homer said, It will probably rain tonight. Hope not. Homer delivered a load of fire wood to Baber's. My mother went along to deliver the wood, and on the way back they stopped at Adrian Jump's, to watch them boil Maple sap down, for syrup.

Saturday the 22nd, Homer and I worked most of the day sorting and cleaning up piles of lumber and other "stuff ". The worst mess was the pile of lumber that had been stacked just behind a concrete wall from the furnace. As we broke the pile down, we found that the Powder Post Beetles had a feast in the lumber, probably soon after it had been put there several years before. Maybe as long as when we were still using the Belsaw mill, that's at least 5 years ago. During the day, Amos and Dan Smucker, came and talked with us. They are Amish, and live just South of Co. Rd. 68 on Co. Rd. 45. I knew Dan from when he was in school, through 8th. grade when he left school. They left and Jeff Johnson came to get the pallets for his father, for the seed corn. Back to the sorting. The Wild Cherry in the pile we were sorting did not have any damage from the beetles. The rest did. Homer's final comment in his notes, "Worse mess now than when we began".

Harry has finished the VanLeuven tract, and is now working in Brand's. The International forklift,has had a run of repairs, ignition coil, resistor, wiring yoke, for same. Just a few days later, the water pump failed and had to have new bearings and seals, then the linkage rods for the brakes wore out and had to be replaced. Total cost was about $100.00.

Monday, Homer started the day by setting up ready to make pallets. Warren and Ted made 1405's till 10:00. Everyone helped again on the newest building project, till noon. Bill cleaned out sawdust, over spray type from around some of the equipment, and always the cut off saws are part of this job.

Monday March 24th, continued. After Bill cleaned up the sawdust, he was cutting pallet material to length. In the process of cutting, Bill got in a hurry, and bumped his finger into the saw blade, at the gullet depth. He hit hard enough to injure his finger, but did not cut it. Bruised and more scared than hurt, realizing how close he had come to cutting the finger. He did go home at noon. Warren and Ted made the Crane-Edmund pallets, and some of the 23" pallets for New Haven. I was working on the staple guns.

The guns needed regular attention, to keep them working well. There were o-rings that wore out, and would keep the guns from firing. There were the driver blades, which would wear from the friction of striking the staples. When this happened, the staple would not go in completely, or one side of the staple would be left sticking up. There were also lubrication issues, if the little in line oiler, either ran out of oil or plugged up, then the gun would get sluggish, and would lose efficiency. The rubber bumpers that took some of the shock out of the firing action, also wore out. There also was a metal sleeve that held one of the bumpers, and if the rubber bumper wore too far, the metal ring would literally break. I did a lot of the repair and servicing of the guns, and could re-build a gun in about 10 minutes, if I had all the parts in the stock, to work with.

I finished repair and service of the staple guns at 3:00, and went to helping Homer with the roofing on the new steam mill building. We got the deck of the roof ready for the black insulation board, and got one sheet of steel roofing on. Before the sheet of steel, we finished the metal valley.

Tuesday, we started on the County Farm lumber, before 9:00, and we were making fence boards. They were 1x5x16'. There were also fence posts to make. We had lumber to saw for Duwayne Baker as well, and after we finished the 1x5's, then we started the Baker lumber. It really only took 2 people to make farm lumber, and Ted had been to Dana, and now Homer loaded the pallets for Crane-Edmund, and Ted took them. After the first two farm lumber jobs, I loaded the deck with the logs to make Don Inlow's gate material. It was cold and windy today, with some snow. There was no real heat in the mill building, and the wind blew in and kept it about the same temperature as it was outside. The only person that had any heat was the sawyer, because of the fan on Hercules. It was blowing directly at the person sawing. The radiator was approximately 6' from the sawyer.

Wednesday, Homer got the pallet building ready for pallet making, and sorted some. Ted and Warren made pallets. Then Ted took the ones to Crane-Edmund. When he got back, the truck was loaded for Dana, and he took them. When everyone was back we sawed and cut up. I worked in the log yard again.

Thursday, we made pallets early, Homer sorted material, and I worked in the log yard again. Homer had appointments , and in the afternoon, we sawed again, making pallet material.

Friday, it was so icy, we did not send the pallets. But we all made it to work, we had become skilled at driving on ice and slick snow. It was rare that we were not at work. The only times we did not make it were when there had been a lot of snow and the drifting was bad enough that the plows did not get the snow plowed. We made pallets, and later started sawing. The icy conditions made it hard to get logs to the deck, but we succeeded.

I missed a comment, about while Homer was getting the distributor parts for the forklift. In Grabill, he learned of a large diesel engine, 1-cylinder, he looked at it , but it had been sold, the day before.

Saturday, Homer worked on the roof project some. He then helped us make pallets, and loaded them, when the load was finished. We continued to make pallets, and I went out to the mill and serviced everything, getting ready for next week. We all left at 4:00.

Monday, the 31st, shipped the load to Dana, and continued to make pallets. I loaded the load for New Haven, and Ted took them. Homer was helping in the pallet building, and Fred Rentschler came, he is the I&M representative, and talked to Homer, and Homer wrote, "Think we may get 3 phase power", but we will have to pay some of the cost. Homer also got a call from Bill Rosenberry, about starting a project they have been talking about. Bill wants to start the excavation of an open ditch that presently exists behind Roselawn Cemetery. The ditch is about filled in and the tile across the cemetery, can't flow, without boiling up and then creeping away. Bill wants to start today at 3:30., so Homer will be busy off and on for the next few days, when Bill is available. They did get a good start on the project.

The end of month deliveries, Dana, 2,169 pallets, only 11 trips and no blocking. Crane-Edmund, 200, on 4 trips. New Haven, 400, on 3 trips.

Fire wood, Link, Mack, Johnson, Kemmerling, Neusus, Baker, Baber, Minard. These brought $144.00. Farm and custom lumber, Steve Anderson, mixed lumber, Walter Reas, shed framing lumber, Keith Culler, building material, Kenneth Koeppe, fence boards, Cletus Miller , pallet material, board length, Jacob Eicher, 1,100 feet of Wild Cherry lumber, Cloyd Anderson, 8-various sized posts, Forrest Littlejohn, rough sawed lumber, DuWayne Baker, sawing, Sechler's Pickles, sawed timbers, 8-10 feet long. The total paid $660.00. The logs sold to Crook-Miller, were $552.00.

April 1st, Ted took a load to Dana, and we sawed most of the day, Homer is helping Bill Rosenberry again, and I am working in the mill, and filling the deck as necessary. We are making good progress today. The weather is good, sunny and bright. I also had to haul some of the cut up material to the other building. Homer had a doctor appointment in the middle of the day, and found out he has secondary Anemia. This is why he is so tired all the time. He is getting some answers.

Wednesday, the 2nd, Homer went to help Bill, and they got done what they needed, by 10:30. It was raining, and they were glad they were done. When he got back, I had loaded a load of custom lumber on the truck and discovered there was a leaking brake line. Homer got it in the building, after we moved some pallets out of the way. He had the materials in the building to repair it , and it was finished. I delivered the lumber, and was back at 3:30. Warren, Ted and Homer sawed, and Bill did not come in. Homer delivered a load of fire wood, and was back at 5:30.

Thursday, the 3rd. There had been a letter from the Indiana OSHA office yesterday, and they were adamant, because we had not contested the fine they had assessed, in 15 working days, they demanded payment immediately, of the $30.00. Homer sent off the check in the mail, with no cover note or anything. Homer has been working on the items that had been written up, plus some more and is about 99% done with the list. Back to the sawmill world. Homer sorted material for a while, and had an appointment. When he returned, Ted was back from the pallet delivery. We sawed til noon. Warren left at noon. We sorted material for a while, then Ted and Bill made pallets. I went to the log yard and scaled, cut, sorted, and stacked logs. Homer fixed the last item on the list of items that had been targeted by the inspector. We had a fully insulated electric drill, that did not need a ground, and the inspector had written it up as not safe. Homer finally put a 3 wire cord on it. The list is completed, now.

INDIANA & MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY
113 South Main Street, Kendallville, Indiana 46755

April 9, 1975

Mr. Homer Abel
County Rd. 43 R. R. 1
Auburn, In. 46706

Dear Mr. Abel:

We are sending our line extension agreement to you for signature. Please sign and return all copies with your check in the amount of $1,205.00. Your file copy of the contract will be sent by return mail.

We wish to point out to you that this line extension is a two phase line and thereby limits the amount of three phase power that will be available to you. We do assure you that you will be able to operate the 100 KW planned load which will include two 20 hp motors.

Upon receipt of your check and the signed agreement, construction is planned to start within 30 days.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Rentschler
Commercial Representative

FLR/j

enclosure

American Electric Power System
INDIANA & MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY
113 South Main Street, Kendallville, Indiana 46755

April 21, 1975

Mr. Homer Abel
R. R. 1
Auburn, In. 46706

Dear Mr. Abel:

We are returning your copy of the line extension agreement which applies to your sawmill electric service. We wish to remind you that this construction is a two phase primary line providing three phase power. The maximum of 20 horsepower can be started across the line. 30 to 50 horsepower would require reduced voltage starting and any motor larger than 50 H.P. would require additional construction to provide a full three phase system.

Construction will begin approximately May 12, 1975.

Sincerely,

Fred L. Rentschler
Commercial Representative

FLR/j

enclosure

Form No. 3541

276

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this 9th day of April, 19 75, by and between INDIANA & MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY (hereinafter called "Company") and Homer Abel dba Abel's Sawmill, Inc. (hereinafter called "Customer").

W I T N E S S E T H

That, whereas Customer desires to have electric energy furnished to his premises located at County Road #43, Auburn, Indiana, and

WHEREAS, the Company is willing to extend its present distribution system, in order to furnish electric energy to said Customer's premises.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One-thousand-two-hundred-five Dollars ($1,205.00), in hand paid by Customer to Company, the Company agrees to extend its said distribution system to furnish electric energy to Customer's premises located at

Sawmill, County Road #43, Auburn, Indiana

subject, however, to the following conditions, all of which Customer hereby accepts and agrees to abide by:

1. It is agreed that the above extension and equipment shall be and remain the sole property of Company, without obligation on its part to refund any of the above mentioned consideration.

2. It is understood that said extension and equipment is not to be used exclusively in furnishing electric energy to Customer, but may be used by Company in serving other parties desiring service from said extension, which may be added to or extended at the discretion of the Company.

3. The above mentioned consideration shall be paid by Customer before construction is begun on said extension.

4. The Company shall maintain said extension and equipment in conformity with its standard maintenance practice and at its sole cost.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be duly executed the day and year first above written.

INDIANA & MICHIGAN ELECTRIC COMPANY

By L. A. Bunke
Manager, Commercial Dept.

WITNESSES:

Homer Abel - Pres

By ABEL SAWMILL INC.

Auburn, Indiana 46706

The real estate agent, was successful, and Homer has a buyer for his mother's house, one more thing that will be off the list soon.

Saturday, the 5th, Homer delivered fire wood to Clayton Baker. Then he spent the day finishing moving things out of the house. We sawed and made pallets, in his absence. Sunday, Brad Pfierman came and wants to sell logs to us. We had gotten some from him at an earlier time.

Monday, We sawed all morning, and till 2:30. Then we took time to go to Homer's mother's house and get the rest of the things there. We had help from Warren and Ted as well as myself. The piano was the big item. An upright grand piano, and some other things.

Tuesday, dad and mom left to go to see her mother. They left about 8:30. We loaded a load of pallets for Dana, and Ted took them. We got busy when he returned and sawed pallet material. It went real well. We had 6 pallets of cut up material when we finished the day. I stayed after the others left long enough to assess what we needed to do on Wednesday.

Wednesday, We made pallets in the morning, for Crane-Edmund, which need to go out on Thursday. Then we made more pallets toward the next load for Dana. We sawed in the late afternoon. Dad and mom got back about 8:00 PM.

Thursday, Homer had a grave to dig early. We got the pallets delivered to Crane-Edmund, and started sawing again. While Ted was gone, I got the log deck filled with logs, and the mill ready to saw. We were working on material for Dana again, because they need a load tomorrow. Homer spent quite a bit of the day at the cemetery, and he was expecting the people that bought the house to come, and he was waiting for them, but they did not show. Our day at the mill went well, and we are on track, for what pallets we need to make.

Friday, the 11th, Harry and Ralph have been working the Buford Brand tract. Now Harry is working on Samuel Hook's woods. Today, Homer wrote a check to start the ball rolling on the 3 phase electric. The check went to Indiana & Mchigan Electric Co. in the amount of $1,205.00, as a down payment. We sawed , sorted and Homer was on the phone some too. I took the load to Dana, then we went back to sawing. We are working on a 250 piece order for Chalmer Tuttle. It is all 1x6" fence boards, 250 of them, and when he came, we were just 5 boards short of the goal. Harry came twice in the last of the daylight with the last one. The singing group I sing with, is singing for the last time tonight , for the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Credit Union meeting. Homer is again saying, "I ache all over".

Saturday, Homer was at the cemetery for a while digging by hand to clean up from the backhoe work that had been done. I was at the sawmill, as were my children, and my wife was in Indianapolis. I worked on the log yard for a while, then in the mill getting ready for Monday.

Monday April 14th, Homer worked a while, in the pallet building, then he went to get an electric motor, at Garrett, which had been repaired. He returned at noon, and cut up material while we sawed. Our son,Michael is 8 today.

Tuesday, Homer is cutting up material that did not get cut yesterday, and then, Homer was sawing, I was running off bear and edger, and Bill and Ted were working the cut-off end. After supper, Homer delivered a load of wood to Waterloo.

PURCHASE ORDER

# Crane Edmund Corporation

10611

Route 6
BUTLER, INDIANA 46721
Phone 219/868-2161

THIS No. MUST APPEAR ON INVOICE. B/L, CASES, BUNDLES, PACKING LISTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Abel's Sawmill
R. R. #1
Auburn, IN 46706

SHIP TO: Crane Edmund Corporation
Route 6
Butler, IN 46721

CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE:

1. To insure prompt payment mail invoice showing order number and with bill of lading attached, to general office, immediately after shipment is made.
2. No charges allowed for boxing, crating or packing.
3. Goods subject to our inspection on arrival, notwithstanding prior payment to obtain cash discount.
4. Goods rejected on account of inferior quality or workmanship will be returned to you with charge for transportation both ways plus labor reloading, trucking, etc., and are not to be replaced except upon receipt of written instructions from us.
5. If any items on this Purchase Order are regulated by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, these items must comply with the regulations of OSHA.

| ate | Delivery Date | Ship Via | FOB | Terms |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4-8-75 | As Released | | | |

| TEM | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | AMOUI |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Blanket for the Year 1975 | |
| | | Pallet - Pedal 36" x 36" | $2.00 |
| | | Schwinn 32" x 40" | $2.00 |
| | | Cycle Products 38" x 46" | $2.39 |
| | | Pallet - Seat Link 29" x 29" | $1.54 |
| | | 60" x 35" | $3.50 |
| | | 32" x 44" | $1.95 |
| | | 28" x 41-1/2" | $2.10 |
| | | Pallet - Baby Seat 43"x 44" | $2.30 |

king slips must accompany all shipments, cartons containing same shall be clearly marked.

Ship in multiples to protect best possible freight rates or freight allowances.

CRANE EDMUND CORPORATION

PER T.H.Ogle - General Mgr.

Wednesday, Homer began the day by helping with pallets, and then loading them, for who? You are right. We made pallets the rest of the morning, and then Homer loaded the pallets for Crane-Edmund, and Ted took them. I worked in the log yard. Homer spent the later part of the day in the pallet building, still cleaning up and putting away.

We started sawing at 8:30 on Thursday, with Homer at sawyer, and he sawed all day. Just at quitting time, he was backing the carriage from the last cut, and hit one of the dogs. Bill had been working the edger position, and whoever was in that position, takes the dog's loose, by lifting and releasing the usually 1-1/2" thick piece of wood, that is left on the carriage. It is all good at that point, usually, except when that is done, sometimes the section of the dog that has the point is able to slide out, to a point where it can be hit by the saw as the carriage is returned to the log deck area. That section of steel, is in a slide position when the handle, or cam is lifted. It becomes, with time, a natural movement to push the movable section of the dog back all the way. It did not happen this time and the dog got hit. It is also the sawyer's responsibility to be watching as the last piece is released. but it is easy to be distracted and not notice things like that. I have hit a dog myself, a few times.

Friday, Ted took the load to Dana, and Homer had a grave to dig. Homer got back about 10:00. He then took a load of fire wood to Johnson's. I replaced the saw teeth that had been damaged and got ready to saw, as well as loading the log deck, to saw. We had a hard rain at noon. The logs were for a custom job, and we started that after lunch. Later in the day, we had finished the custom work and went in to make pallets. Our pallet work went well, and I unloaded one of Harry's 2 loads of logs today.

Saturday, the 19th, Homer and I put away some more things. Homer tried to start the Continental 330 engine in the Belsaw mill, and found that it was stuck. We discovered the exhaust pipe had the 6" tall can that was over it,
blown off. Water had gotten in. That prompted us to look at the old International 15-30 tractor, and the Continental 363 engine we had gotten from the City of Auburn, both were okay, but we still put oil in both of them, through the spark plug holes.

Monday April 21st, Homer got right on the Continental engine, taking it apart and finding 2 cylinders with pistons wet and rusted some. There were 2 valves involved as well. This whole episode was aggravating to Homer, because not only did it make more work but, it meant we did not have any back up if we were desperate to saw, when the Hercules went down. The rest of us went on with the process of sawing and making pallets.

Tuesday, I had to work on the Hercules, because as we were sawing yesterday, it was not running well, there was some miss-firing, near the end of the day. It sounded like sometimes before, when the ignition points were not working right. So today, I am changing the points, and as I am working on that I see that the water pump is leaking. So I also repack the seal on the pump. This water pump is old enough that I can do that with a graphite type water packing rope. I also replaced the spark plugs. When I started it up after these repairs, it ran correctly and sounded crisp and smooth. Most of all, the water pump was not leaking. In the afternoon, we sawed again, 3 small custom jobs. Then we went back to pallet material. Homer spent some of the day on the Continental engine, while we were doing other things, in the morning. Ted got something in his eye, probably sawdust, and went to the doctor. He got it out, but the doctor told him to take the rest of the day off and tomorrow as well. After supper, Homer went back to the engine repair work for a while. It was a good day, in spite of the things that interrupted us. It is just part of the process, and we roll with it. I am just thankful that we have skills to.

Thursday April 24th, Homer worked at sorting pallet material and helped make them. Ted took the load to Dana. Just after he left, Dana called they wanted some more of a different size, so we went on making and the second load went at 12:15. I took the second load. We sawed after 3:30, and Homer got called away, because the Electric Company men were here to make any final decisions that needed to be made. They went over the whole plan again, and Homer went and talked to the neighbor to the South of the mill, Art Foster, and he was okay with what was going to happen. There would be a new pole installed across the road from his house, and they wanted to be sure about the location. After they left, Homer put some more logs on the deck to saw. He got back in the mill at 3:30., and he had to haul some of the pallets of cut material to the assembly building.

Friday, Homer has plans for the shed that will have to be built for the new electric service, and the plan is for the building to be 6'x 9". it will have a shed type roof line with the low side to the North. It will be a post type building. The South wall will have 4 locations for service inside, with all having, 3 phase, 200Amp service. There will be a large junction box on the outside to receive the main line. That line will be run to the 4 other boxes on the inside. One of the inside fuse boxes will serve the present mill, one will serve the pallet making building, and one will serve the new steam mill when it is up and running. The fourth box, will be for whatever in the future. All of the present equipment in each building will be rewired, as well as the up grade to each building. All of the new work will be installed in conduit. A company in Kendallville, Indiana, has been secured to do all of the installation except the main line into the large box outside the power building. That company is Pyle Electric. More about this as it happens.

Back to the work day. We started with Homer sharpening the main mill saw , and he sawed for a while, custom lumber. Then he had me saw for the rest of the day. We got two batches out of the building, then went back to pallet material. Homer filled the deck with logs, and went in and sorted pallet material, to get ready for Bill. He and Bill notched stringers, and made pallets. We did not work on Saturday this week.

Monday, April 28th, Homer helped load the pallets for the Dana delivery, and Ted took them. Homer helped a while making more pallets, then went in to write the checks. He sawed a while after that, then turned it over to Warren to saw. Homer went in at 4:30, because he is in pain almost constantly again. We continued to saw and cut up pallet material, till 5:15.

Tuesday, again,Homer helped making pallets early, notching and moving material. Bill called, his mother is in the hospital, and he will not be here today. We continued to work on pallets and other things until noon. Homer will be leaving soon for the funeral of Cliff Billow, he was 71, and a former employee here at the mill. I have fond memories of him. He was like another father figure to me. After Homer got back, he worked on the lights on the International truck. Inspection time is here again.

Wednesday, pallets and sawing, and Homer was cutting the material today, till noon. He had other obligations in the afternoon. He went to Avilla, to get a new right front wheel spindle for the backhoe tractor. $44.00. He says, "Whew", meaning expensive. He had gone to the doctor, and got a cortizone shot, and said he was quite a bit better now.

It is time for a report on pallet deliveries. We made 13 trips to Dana, 2,722 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 351 pallets, New Haven, 225 pallets.

The April custom and farm lumber, Charles Burkmire, 185-1x5x12' 96-4x4x6', Virgil Oswalt, 200-1x6x7', and 80-4x4x7', both of these were neighbors about ¼ mile apart, and looking back, their fences lasted almost 35 years. Chalmer Tuttle, Red Elm gate material. This was really good, stout material, but it did not last well if it was in ground contact, where it was wet. This was a large order, too. Another note about Red Elm, if the tree had been killed by the Dutch Elm disease, it could stand in the woods for 6-8 years, and be as good as it was before it died. Donald Johnson, 200- special size pallets for the seed corn. These were 1'x2' size and had 2 runners, and 1" boards on the top and bottom. Glen Newcomer, 2-18' long 2x4's, Gerald Myers, 3-4x4x12' posts, Neil Prentice, 2-3x4x8' and 1-2x12x18'. Bob Chapman, 22 gate boards,16' long. Dale Martin, 33-1x6x12'. Romey Maxwell, 13- 2x8and 2x10x12' and 14' . Mrs. Russell Myers, 20-1x6x12'. Jack Buttermore, a quantity of wide 2" plank. Eugene Baughman, 55- gate boards. Lyle Platter, gate boards. Walter Reinhart, 80- gate boards, 14' and 16' long. Graber Homes, 6-6x6x12', 10-2x12x12'. Romey Maxwell, 2-posts7' long, and 15-2x12x8'. Glen Newcomer, 37-1x12x6', and 6 gate boards. Lloyd Rowe, 28-1x6x16 fence boards. This was a lot of material, and it helped fill the gap, of the loss of pallets, we were not making. I think there were 19 orders, in this group and they brought in $1,680.00, for the month. That was equivalent of 3-1/2, to 4-1/2 loads of pallets.

The fire wood, Clayton Baker, Henry Link, Zola Coburn, A. Hoover, Johnson, and maybe 2 or 3 others. I know there were several mentioned in the months writing, and I believe some were not written down on the delivery sheet.

Thursday May 1st, Homer helped with the sawing and pallet work for a while. He then went to work on the running boards on the truck that is going to get the inspection. The driver side was the worse of the two, and he had to re-build the support work for it, where the other one just needed a couple of bolts. He was aware the mill was going to need more logs on the deck, and he took care of that along with what he was doing. There were other things that needed to be done to the truck and he did some of that after supper.

Friday, Homer started by repairing the fuel tank mount, and that was almost a complete re-build. The brackets and the bands were both about rusted through. The only thing he had left to repair was the other running board. The rest of us either made pallets or sawed almost all day.

Saturday, I worked in the log yard and the building, helping straighten up, from the weeks jobs. Homer had more foundation work to do at the cemetery. I unloaded Harry's loads of logs. The Ford tractor was laid up with the broken front spindle, and Homer was working on it at the cemetery, but could not get the grease cap off, then it started to rain. So, he brought it to the mill to work on. He helped me with the cleanup in the shop, after he got back.

Monday May 5th, Homer helped with the pallet material sorting in the morning. Along with the truck inspection, he had other errands to do. The truck did pass the inspection. He started the forms at cemetery, and then came back and got the wheel on the new spindle. We had sawed pallet material most of the afternoon. Homer notes that there was a strong thunder storm about dark. It caused the lights to go out briefly 3-4 times. It continued to storm well into the night.

Tuesday, Homer helped with pallets early. The rest of went to work in the mill and sawed almost all day. Homer did not help today, except early. He can't bend his right elbow, and it hurts all the time. His comment, "Don't amount to much".

Some notes about items that were purchased, a tank of Oxygen is now$10.45, for the medium size tank, which is what we use. The truck inspection, cost $5.00. Ralph, has been working cutting and skid at Scott Hook"s, and his wages are about the same as our mill workers, each week, but he gets paid every other week. Harry, is being paid about the same, weekly and is paid bi-weekly also, and they have finished Hook's, now. Harry is not finished with Brand's, and he is working that by himself.

Wednesday, the 7th, Homer helped with the pallets in the morning. We started sawing at 10:00, and Homer ran the edger, until noon. Fred Renschler, came to give Homer more figures for the wiring job. After lunch, Homer got Warren, Ted and I to help him with the effort to turn the Continental engine some more, and we did move it a little. Homer then took the valves out of the engine. Now Homer is going to make a wrench tool to help turn it easier. Even though most engines of this time period do not have an option to use a crank, this one does, yet. It was not however, the standard size, so Homer welded up one that would work, later this afternoon. I said a while back, that things are not always in order in the journal, and that is so today, Ted took the Dana pallets at 8:15 this morning.

Thursday, Homer, again, sorted material early. In the afternoon, he went to put the forms on at the cemetery. There is one yet to dig and form. We made pallets, and sawed per my instruction, as it had been for 2-3 weeks now. Homer does not say when we delivered at this time. I know we did when it was necessary. All of our workers, had been doing this long enough, that if they were told we were going to make a specific pallet, they get the saw horses, and the appropriate form or forms to make them. They also knew want to lubricate and look for with the equipment, for problems. Warren, Homer and myself were the ones that changed, and or filed the saw teeth. Warren could go to the log yard and get logs, if he knew which size we needed, and it was cut ahead. They all knew what area's needed cleaning up. Warren was also skilled, with enough knowledge to know about a lot of the repairs that were common, and could be a great help there, and sometimes, he was sent to repair things.

Friday, Homer took Warren and they went to the cemetery to finish the dig and form up. Then the concrete came and they finished it. It was all carried in to the locations with a one wheel, wheel barrow. Hard work. They were finished by noon, and Homer sorted PE-1405 material in the afternoon. He then changed out the under-powered electric motor on the cut-off saw in the pallet building. He must have been having a better day today, because he gathered and cleaned up in the pallet building after supper.

Saturday, April 10th, Homer worked at various things in the pallet building. He made the wrench for the crank for the Continental engine. With the help of the new tool, Homer and I got the engine turned to where he wanted it. He did get one piston out and the other loose. Meaning there were only 2 that were in trouble. I spent quite a lot of the day in the log yard. It is a nice time of the year to work in the log yard, the mosquito's are not yet biting.

Sunday, dad and I went mushroom hunting after dinner with the whole family. We came back with a half a paper bag full, about 2 pound.

Monday, the 12th, We all worked pallets till 10:30. We sawed the rest of the day, and it went very well. Homer, states, "I stood the day pretty well". That was written, before he went out after supper, and made some 23" pallets for New Haven. He then got the shop ready for the next day's work to make pallets, and then saw in the afternoon. He was still feeling good and went to bed at 8:30, two hours later than when he was feeling bad just a few days ago.

Tuesday May13th, We all made pallets early, and sorted, notched stringers, cleaned up. Then sawing about 9:30. We sawed till noon. After lunch, Homer went to Cecil, Ohio, and ordered the piston rings for the Continental engine. Then he went on over to Emanuel Polter's, a fellow sawmill man. They talked, and Emanuel had sold his mill and ordered a new one. When Homer returned, we sawed the rest of the day. Made a nice batch of material, some of it ready to use .

Wednesday, We made pallets and Ted took the load to Dana, by 10:00. We continued to make pallets, and Homer took a load of 350 pallets to New Haven at 2:00. Homer came back through Leo, after he had gotten staples in Fort Wayne. While in Leo, he stopped at the International dealer, Sheerer& Maxfield. There he ordered a new clutch for the forklift. After Homer left with the pallets, we continued to saw. Homer got back at 6:15.

It is Thursday, and getting to be a regular thing, make pallets early, then saw, we also sawed in the afternoon. After we stopped at noon, Warren left to go farm at Holman's again. Homer went to cutting material in the afternoon, as we sawed. My cousin, Dan Harnish, came in the late afternoon, and Homer went to help him get the furniture that he wanted from Zadie's house. I am sure my mother was happy to see the things leave, she got her living room back again. Homer went to Bill's banquet, signaling the end of his time with the school--work program. Homer made a comment, when he got home in his notes, "I feel pretty good, for having worked all day".

Friday, we got our pallets made, and Ted delivered the load to Dana. Homer cleaned the pistons for the overhaul, and they are ready for the rings now. Bill did not come today. Homer went to the cut-off saw from one hour before lunch, and for the first 2 hours after lunch. Then we started the building for the electric switches. The posts were all used posts, from, of all places, the I&M yard. They have some poles that have been taken out, however they are from 24' on down to about 14' long. That was okay though, because we could use the shorter ones very well, and only needed one pole to be 16' above the ground. It would be the one that supported the new wires that would feet power to the building. The process went well, and we had 6 poles in at the end of the afternoon. Mr. Rentschler was here and said the electricians would be here tomorrow. Their process would be to assess the situation, and determine where to start in each building, and the material needed for it.

Saturday, the electricians,came, and started the process of what was needed. Homer and I worked on the power building, and almost got the framing done. Sometime in the morning, Homer stepped off his ladder, backward, from 4 steps up. The heel he landed on and hip hip are , "pretty sore". "Hope it gets okay".

Monday, May 19th, Homer is alright, because he did not make any written comment about his sudden step to the ground. We worked on pallets, till Bill came. Ted is sick. We worked on the building a while, and then dad and I went to Samuel Hook's to get the CO-Op tractor, and someone had broken the battery, spark plugs and distributor cap. Homer hopes to get it fixed in the morning.

Tuesday, we sawed in the morning, Bill did not show. Homer hunted in our stock of parts, "quite large", of CO-OP and Cockshutt items, both of which will interchange, and found everything he needed to repair the tractor. He went and repaired it , and it started , and he was able to bring it back to the mill. He then checked out the rest of the pistons for the engine he was repairing in the old mill. They are now ready to re-assemble. It will soon be ready to run again, just waiting for gaskets, and rings.

Wednesday, May 21st, Homer sorted and cut up until 8:00. He then went to finish foundations. The foundations at the cemetery, are a big thing this time of the year. Because, Memorial day is soon coming, and it is a time when the living want to have the memorials to their loved ones there. The foundations were done, and he was back at 1:00. We sawed in the afternoon. Are you getting tired of the same things, all the time? I hope not because this journal goes yet to August. Homer did help saw in the afternoon, with Warren gone, it still went pretty good. After supper, Homer went back to the roof on the new electric building. He has determined to make it special. He has two colors of shingles, dark gray and white, with the intention to spell ABEL on the roof in white letters. He was there 2 hours tonight and it is about finished.

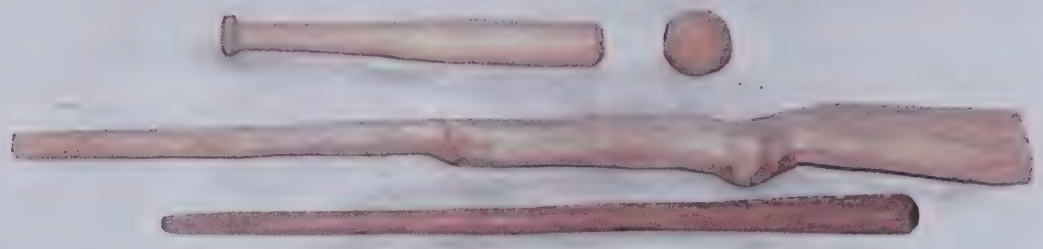
Thursday, Rained again, but looks like it will stop soon. Homer and I went to cemetery to pour the foundations, and were finished by 11:00. He went right to work on the electric building roof, and then after noon, he helped saw again. He says, "Tired tonight". I wonder why, I was too, because I traded off with him, wheeling the cement to the holes at the cemetery.

Friday, we sawed in the morning, as well as Homer finishing the roof project on the electric room. Homer took the afternoon off to take care of other commitments. Saturday morning, after being in Lansing, Michigan over night, he went to the sawmill supplier there, McHugh Co, that we have been doing business with for years, and purchased $351.31 of merchandise. There were chainsaw files, mill saw bits, mill files, folding 4' log scales, crayon holders for our marking crayons, a dozen red #520-1/2 crayons, which are softer than the regular #520 ones. He also purchased 2 shanks that hold the removable teeth in the saws. Also some metal "Alligator" belt lacing. Mrs. McHugh has been running the business, since he husband passed away, and now, she died in April. The daughter-in-law is trying to keep the business in order. Homer also went to see Mr. Wildt, and he is quite well for his age.

Monday is here again, Homer cleaned in pallet building some more early. He brought the International forklift in to change the clutch. That's what the clean-up was about today, making room. This time the process for the clutch requires more work than usual. The flywheel is slightly different than the one he took out. He had to re-bore the center to get it to fit, and then shim it some, too. From what I read, I think the mounting holes were different also. By 8:15 in the evening, he had it ready to re-assemble again.

Tuesday, the 27th, Homer needed to use the CO-OP fork lift to move some material to the building to make pallets, and he got it done, and then as he was moving outside, a gear in it's transmission broke. So--, Homer spent the rest of the day working on the International forklift, I was helping some during the alignment process. I had my own project with the same forklift, I was working on the plate that carries the forks. It is mounted with 8 machine bolts, 4 on each side, and all of them needed to be replaced. The heads of these machine bolts were a 3/8' Allen Wrench, a six-sided tool. It inserted into the heads of the bolts. Over time, the bolts would actually stretch from the constant use. The real problem was that the heads were worn and it was hard to insert the tool. We did use the torch to cut some of them, but then when putting the plate back it was hard to get the alignment right. This was because some of the holes were now worn as well. I had one bolt to get installed when the day ended. Warren and Ted had been making pallets today, while all of this was going on. Homer finally got done with his clutch job and started the tractor and shifted and used the clutch and all was good, it worked correctly.

Wednesday, I finished the last bolt in the mast plate, and we sawed till 3:00, then I piled up 3-5:00.



Top, 1975, new electric building for 3 Phase power distribution. Middle, Homer's break time carving. Bottom, in the Maple wood, sap spiles that were either hit or found while sawing. Other pieces are bullets hit or found, while sawing, a large portion were in Cottonwood logs.

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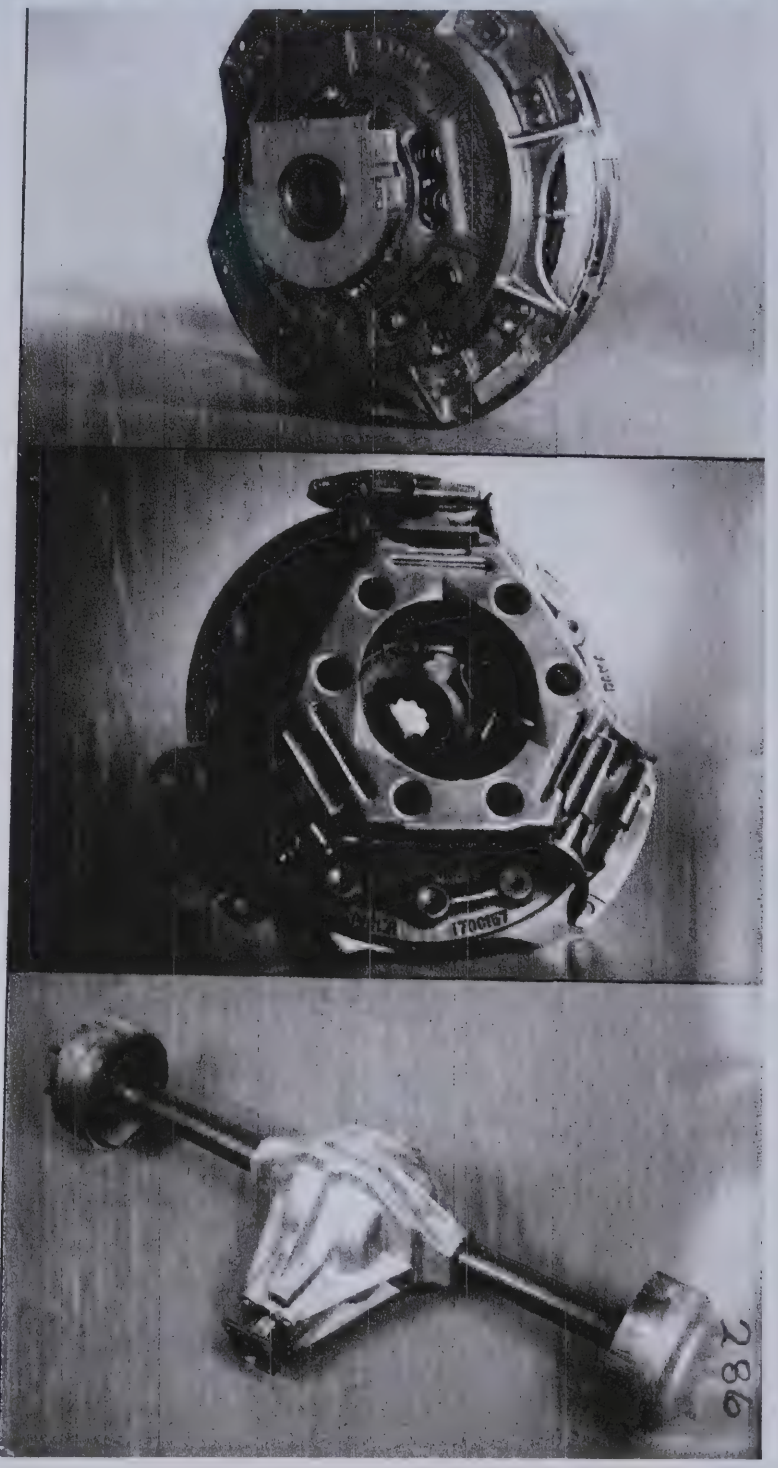


Thursday, May 29th, Homer helped Warren make pallets early. Ted was not in today, he had relatives visiting. No Bill yet, his mother called and said he would be late. I was working in the log yard early. After dinner, Homer, G'Nell, and Warren went to the open house at Dana. There will be two pictures from the booklet that they gave out at the open house. The three that went to the open house returned at 3:30. I left at 4:00, after working in the log yard.

Friday, Homer and Warren made pallets, for Dana first, and notched runners, then made seat link pallets for Crane-Edmund. Warren and I then cut up the material from yesterday that was waiting. We cleaned up the mill and got ready to saw again. Homer cleaned up in the pallet building, before we started sawing.

Saturday, Homer had the place to himself today. He worked at clean up and some on the siding on the electric building. The men from Pyle electric brought some tools and materials. They will start seriously next week.

The pallet deliveries for May, Dana, 2,281 pallets, and 550 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 240 pallets, New Haven, 600, with 2 new sizes, and two are now using notched stringers, for 4 way entry. This is the most pallets we have ever taken to New Haven.

The farm and custom lumber, Lyle Levy, 2-3x8x10' plank, Charles Rainier, 24-1x8x7', DeKalb County Highway, 630 feet of custom sawing, for a bridge deck West of Waterloo, Indiana. James Holmes, 34-1x5x16' fence boards, Cecil Parker, 4-2x10x16', Graber Homes, 1-8x8x10', and one 7' fence post. Robert Depew, one inch material to cover 32 square feet. James Grimm, 10 foot gate material. Gerald Goings, 15 tapered posts, and 10- gate boards. County Highway Dept, 2-9 and 1/4" square x 7' long timbers. Chalmer Tuttle, 160-1x6x16'. Neil Prentice, 21 plank , all 12' long, but different widths. Avon Caldwell, 2-2x8x10', Harold Surface, and Ferguson, 550 feet of sawing. Rieke & Quance, custom sawing, 1,000 feet. Keith Culler, 4- 8" wide plank, Frank McCullough, 189' of sawing. Larry Heffley, one 14 foot diving board, made on a taper from 2" at the tip, back to the mounting end at 4". They were usually of White Oak and very straight grained material. DeWayne Baker, apologies for the wrong spelling in earlier writing. Sawing of 1,033 feet of Oak fence lumber. This one, Homer made a deal with Mr. Baker, Mr Baker traded trees to Homer equal to the price of the Oak lumber. It was in the amount of $236.35, a good trade. The real dollars, from the sawing was $680.00, plus the trade of lumber for sawing. We had a very good mix of customers for our sawing of both custom and lumber requests from our own logs. It was a good way to interact with the public through this avenue.

I do not have any fire wood to report, in part because it was now warm weather.

Monday, June 2nd, Homer worked a while with pallets, while the load was delivered to Dana, by Ted. Then he sorted material, and made pallet tops. The rest of his day, is noted as, "odds and ends", fixing things. We were sawing today, on pallet material.

Wednesday, Homer is working on the Continental engine repairs. Warren delivered the load of pallets to Dana today. We alternated between sawing and making pallets.

Homer sorted early, then went to get parts, and was back by noon. He then worked on engine repair. The valves, springs, one piston, and crankshaft is smoothed and done. 6-3-1975.

Thursday, June 5th, Bill nailed until 10:00. and the rest of us, cleaned up and worked toward sawing. I changed the saw teeth, and lubricated all of the equipment, for sawing. Homer got the engine almost back together. He still has the manifold and a couple of other minor things to do. He was feeling quite well today, he just went to the house at 9:30.

Friday, Homer started in the pallet building, getting ready for the others. He has been waiting to work on the electric building. It is not raining today, and he notes that it has rained sometime, every day for 7 days. Later, Homer worked on a mix of things, there is always something to move, repair, adjust, or order parts for.

Saturday, Homer added dirt to the floor of the electric building, to raise it up above the area outside. The building will not have a wood or concrete floor, only dirt. He also got the plywood in the building on the South wall, for the 4 electric service boxes. Pyle electric came and worked from 9:00- 3:00. The outside of the building is almost finished. Homer then went down the road to trim brush that will be in the way when the new poles are put in.

Monday, Homer helped in the pallet making process. He called Bill, to see why he did not come. He had totaled his Camero, Saturday evening. He has a lot of bruises and is sore, but will rest and get better. Homer helped me sort logs in the afternoon. Ted and Warren made pallets, and Ted took a load to Dana.

Tuesday, Homer helped saw in the morning, we stopped at 11:00, and notched and made pallets for Crane-Edmund, and sent the load after lunch. We cleaned up and sawed the late part of the afternoon, mostly custom lumber. Homer finished the siding on the North side of the electric building.

Wednesday, the 11th, we made pallets and Homer took the load to Dana, at 10:00. The rest of us, sawed some custom lumber till noon. Homer helped saw in the afternoon. He left us, sawing, and went in to finish the Continental engine. He got it running, and said, "It sounded good", that was at ten till five. He wrote a note that I had found a large Meadow Mushroom. It weighed ¾ of a pound. I left it for mom and dad to fry, and he said it was good.

We started to saw at 7:30, on Thursday, and it went real good till 2:00, when the Hercules said I"ve had enough and quit running. Warren and I tore it down, and found that a head gasket had blown internally and the cylinder was full of Anti-freeze water. We drained the oil, and re-filled, then turned the starter to circulate the oil. Hope it is okay. Homer says, I have to order a new gaskets tomorrow morning. The electricians were here 6:30- 9:45. and the work is going good.

Friday, Homer cut more trees along the road, and where the new power line will go. Ted made pallets, and Homer, Warren and I moved the brush that Homer was cutting. After that, I went to the log yard to sort logs. Warren and Homer made pallets late in the day.

Saturday, Homer had the place to himself. He worked in the pallet building, and sorted some material. He also worked on the work bench in the work shop. He cleaned up some too.

Monday, the 16th, the details are finished on the electric building. Warren ground the valves for the Hercules, and Homer had made the tool to do it with the metal lathe. He mounted a fine grinding wheel on a shaft that could be operated with a drill. I sorted logs, and Ted made pallets all day.

Tuesday, June 17th, we worked on the extension of the roof beyond the boiler, and then after lunch, it got so windy, we sawed with the Belsaw mill, first the dry pine strips for Dana, next were some 10 foot logs for future Dana material. Also some 23" material for New Haven. It went pretty well. New Haven had called and wants a load of pallets, 2 sizes, tomorrow.

Wednesday, begins with cutting the New Haven material to length, for nailing. Warren and Ted made the pallets, and Ted delivered them after lunch. While the pallets were being delivered, Homer worked on the sawdust channel, the one that keeps the sawdust cleared under the edger. Apparently, it had shifted some way. He put in some posts and and some new trough. Warren helped him in doing this, and it is almost done.

Thursday, we worked on the roof again, getting nearly done with this section. The gaskets were delivered at 1:00, and we started on re-assembly of engine. The gaskets were $19.54. It was almost together by supper time.

Friday, Homer finished the Hercules,and we sawed in the afternoon. Ted took pallets to Crane-Edmund, and the rest of the day went pretty well. Saturday, Homer was lone ranger, and worked on clean up North of where we have been putting on roof. The plan is to start that section next.

Monday, the 23rd, We made pallets in the morning, and sawed in the afternoon. Homer sorted and then did some of the odd jobs. Someone went to The Anderson's, because there is a check stub for there, for $600.08, with no indication of what was purchased. Probably motor oil. His final note for the day, "Got a lot sawed".

Tuesday, We worked in the pallet building for a while, then we started to saw about 9:00. Bill did not come in today. The sawing went pretty well today, but Homer was in about 3:30, and commented to Warren and I that it seemed like the tappets were a little noisy. We stopped and Warren did the job of re-setting them. While that was going on, Homer had been out moving and loading dirt for the next section of the steam building. And after the dump truck was loaded, he went to move and got stuck.

Wednesday, Homer began by getting the Terra-Trac and with one of us in the truck, he pulled it out. It does not say if he emptied it at that time. Homer worked in the mill after that, for a while. Then he went to the pallet building to get material ready for pallets.

Thursday, we made pallets in the morning, Homer had an appointment, and got back about noon. He loaded the next load of pallets, and sorted material. I do not see any indication that we sawed today. I probably was in the log yard.

Friday, Homer started nailing when Warren came at 7:00. We went to sawing at 8:10 to 10:00. We made a load for Dana, and I delivered the load, because I had a meeting to go to at 2:30. Homer was gone for a while as well. The rest made pallets. Homer got back at 3:00, and they went to sawing again. Homer was feeling good today, because at 6:30, he went back out and his intention was to clean up and cut weeds. But, you know how it goes sometimes, he went out and put the rest of the black board on the remaining roof area of the new building, instead.

Saturday, Homer again had the place to himself. He worked on the roof work again, and did some odd jobs. He went to Harry Strong's son, Kent's wedding in the afternoon.

Sunday, June 29th, in the afternoon, Homer went to the National Threshers Association show in Wauseon,Ohio. He talked to Ervin Watson, from Auburn, while there. Ervin was interested in a sawmill we had just sitting around. Ervin came in the evening, and Homer showed him the mill.

Monday, Homer worked in the sawmill in the AM. He sawed a custom log that a Mr. Barnes had delivered to saw. He got it sawed, but notes, "There was about a teacup of iron in it". I was not yet back from an out of town engagement.

I have quite a list of farm and custom lumber for the month. Matt Andrews, 18-1-1/2"x 12"x7', Jim Grimm, 1-3x20x12', Steve Anderson, custom sawing, Gerald Goings, fence boards, Robert Prosser, 30-2x4x12', Harry Hefty, 80-1x5x16', Jim Reas, 1,260 feet of custom work, Marvin Dowden, 10' fence boards, VanLeuven, 45-2x2x4 feet, for blocking, Ralph Fortman, mixed lumber, mostly 1" thick, Jeri Walter, small quantity of 2x4,s, Jake Smith, 1-3x8x22' and 7-2x4x14', Ford Hudson, mixed 2" material. Norm Gerig, 4-2x10x16', BobChapman, mixed lumber, Carson Culler, 93 pieces of 10 and 12' long material. Hubert McNamara, 60-1x6x16', Lowell Prentice, mixed lumber. For a total of $800.00.

The June pallets delivered, Dana, only 9 trips, 2,100 pallets. Crane-Edmund, 480 pallets, of 6 sizes. New Haven, 285 pallets. Looking at the numbers now, I did not realize at the time, how slow Dana was. We seemed to have enough to do, and as a young man at the time I was unaware. But I was not the one sending the accounts payable statements, either, Homer was.

Tuesday, July 1, 1975. Homer is working on a request from Warren, and probably rightfully so. He has been doing most of the pallet material sawing. In the summer, it is too warm in front of the Hercules, even after we built a partial wall there. Warren has requested a fan be installed under the log deck, with a cover over it to keep the bark and sawdust from effecting it. Homer was the run around and keep everybody able to work, person today. He loaded the log deck and hauled cut material to the pallet building, as well as load sawdust. I know there were other things he was doing as well. Ervin Watson, came this evening and paid Homer $100.00 for the old Sears, made by, Belsaw mill. Homer had purchased it from Bill Goings many years ago.

Wednesday, Homer is again the mixed jobs man, working on the fan between other jobs, in the morning. He helped cut up the fresh sawed material in the afternoon. We did start sawing at 8:00, and in the afternoon, pallets were made.

Thursday, Homer started by getting ready in the pallet building. I was in the log yard, and then Homer left to dig a grave. Later, he put a door on the end of the mill building, a swinging door, 32" wide. It had been covered with a piece of steel siding, previously. We had a 6' roller door there, but that was sometimes too much to open. Had a considerable thunder storm at 10:00 PM. Homer has gotten enough of the right food and medicines, so he is not writing that he hurts. That's good.

Friday, the 4th, we had the day off. I do see that Homer worked some at the steam building, at something. Sorted material for pallets, too. Saturday, he worked at more of the items at the steam mill.

Monday, the 7th, We sawed all day, it went very well, and Homer was the gopher, keeping us supplied and carrying the cut material to the building. Tuesday, Mr. Watson came and picked up the mill he had purchased. We sawed all day. We are beginning to get a lot of material cut ahead. It has been slow, but it will pick up again, some time.

Wednesday, July 9th, it looks like Homer was sawing, and it says, "Sawed one inch lumber for a few cuts, sawed off the end of a carriage axle, when a wedge shaped piece went down in and derailed the carriage". Homer spent the rest of the day fixing a new saw guide, and repairing the rest of the stuff. Still have the axle to repair, going to saw without it tomorrow. While Homer worked on the repairs, we made pallets, and I worked in the log yard.

Thursday, we sawed , Soft Maple for out use. It was sawed at 3/4" thick or just a bit more, and would be mixed widths. We would be piling it up to use to side the new steam building, because the wood weathers well and lasts a long time, as long as it is not in contact with the ground. We also sawed a custom job for Terry Inlow. Then, floor for Francis Dulle's hay mow floor. Homer cleaned up in front of the room where we stored the un-cut up pallet material. He also piled some edgings in a bin to store for fire wood in the pallet building, this winter. Homer was taking care of the extra things, including keeping the log deck filled. I missed an item from a few days ago, the Hercules re-build, did in fact have other parts needed, 3 valves, and something else. The cost for those expenses was, $87.24.

Friday, Homer went to help the pallet making men get started, then left to take care of business in town. When he returned, we were in the process of putting new lacing in the main drive flat belt. We had to use a clamp device, to pull the ends together, for the new splice, and Homer was in time to help with that. That belt was one we had purchased from Mr Wildt, in Belleview. It had a blue line, and the manufacturer called that particular belt, Blue Streak, because of that. After the belt repair, we went back to sawing, and Homer kept the log deck filled.

Saturday, I was working on loading some garbage in barrels to take to the landfill, which would be open till noon today, Homer came out and helped me with that. After that, Homer started on cleanup of several areas around the buildings. We went out after I returned, and worked in the new boiler building for a while. We finished the day, by getting everything ready for sawing next week. We got new dog today, a female,"Topsy", another Red Bone Coon Hound" My daughter Marie, came to spend a few days with grandpa and grandpa, today, and got to run and play with the new dog.

Monday, Homer loaded the Dana pallets and Ted took them. As soon as they left, we made some more pallets, and then sawed and made enough pallets for the second load, which I took. While I was gone, Homer sawed some 6x6's for Neal Ott. Then we started sawing on Cottonwood 2x10x 18', and 22' for our use when we start building the main section of the new steam mill. They will be the long runs of the trusses for that building. The long ones will be the rise of the slope, and the shorter ones will be the bottom ties across.

On Tuesday, Bill called and said he would be late, and Homer told him not to come in at all. We sawed New Haven material in the morning, and started their pallets in late afternoon. We also sawed some custom work too. Pyle Electric was here in the evening, and worked. They are almost done.

Wednesday, the 16th, Homer got the material ready for Warren and Ted to make the New Haven pallets, and he stenciled them. Ted delivered the pallets at 8:45, and Bill cut up material, till we started to saw. Homer moved logs and kept the deck filled. Homer went to working on the fire wall in the boiler building, and it went pretty good. After supper, he went out and installed the board to mount the new switch for the stringer notcher on.

Thursday, Homer is going for an overnight in hospital, for tests and EKG. See next page.

Thursday, the 17th, Homer's first test was at 10:00. There has been no food since last night. The tests were blood tests, and he got an EKG, about 1:30. Supper at 5:00. He has had no meds for arthritis, and is in quite a bit of pain because of it. In the morning, Friday, they are going to remove a growth. The operation went well and the doctor thought there was no sign of a cancer. Now on IV's. He had liquids for supper. He notes that the arthritis did not let him sleep much during the previous night. He has learned, he is low on Hemoglobin, the number is at 8, instead of 13. Saturday, morning, throat still sore, and Homer is on another IV. He got off the IV at 11:00, and called me to come to bring him home. It started raining before we got home, and just after he got home, it rained very hard. He says in his notes,"Laid around the rest of the day". Monday, he rested again all day. Good.

Monday the 21st, Homer was out and worked a couple or three hours worth in all day. "Pretty tired and ache all over, hope it soon lets up". The electrician came about 9:00 and got his pay for the balance of the main wiring job. That meant the work pertaining to the 3 Phase section of the work. There was still work to do in all of the buildings to hook up the equipment. The materials and labor for this part of the work is $2,558.16. Homer had already paid $1,500.00 toward this, earlier.

Tuesday, Homer begins by saying, he is tired and sore. In the morning he went along with my wife and mother to pick blueberries at a location near Ari, off of Indiana Road 205. He said the blueberries were nice and good, meaning they ate some as they picked. In the afternoon, Homer was back and was working on the automated slabwood saw. The bearings were babbit type, and he had re-poured them and they were ready to replace in the equipment, but on closer inspection, only one of the two was good enough. He had all the equipment to heat and pour new ones, which he had done, but the molten metal was not quite hot enough, when poured. He said, will have to re-pour it. Babbit is a mix of tin and lead, and is very durable when finished correctly.

While this saw was down, it meant that we had to cut up the slabs with the saw we usually used only for pallet material. Doable, but just a little more work.

Wednesday, Homer worked a little, but said, "Have to catch up". He did heat the Babbit and melt it out of the bearing, and heat a new batch and pre-heat the cast bearing shell, then poured the new bearing insert. While all of this has been going on, we have been busy sawing, and making pallets, as well as delivery and farm lumber. Thursday, Ted was sick, and Homer worked some in the mill, also moving logs and keeping the deck filled. He is feeling some better, he changed the oil in his VW car.

Friday, July 25th, We sawed all morning, and it went well. In the afternoon, Homer went to get the fuses and other things to finish up the 3 Phase services. These were 200 Amp, paper with the copper ends to insert in the holders. Those copper ends are 1/8' thick and 1 wide, and the contact area is about 1-1/4" long, to handle the load to the inside of the fuse. He also came back with a gallon of bright yellow high quality metal paint, to paint the large boxed in cover metal, on the Hercules engine. He got home in time and felt well enough to mix mortar and lay some concrete blocks for wall work in the new steam building.

I worked on Saturday, and Homer did not. I spent most of the day sorting pallet material and cutting up some as well.

Monday, Homer called the doctor, to make an appointment about the tests he had done, and the doctor said he would sent the information to his local doctor. "Hope all of this does some good".

Tuesday, July 29th, Homer did go to the doctor at Huntertown today, and he believes it will help, but thinks it will take a while. Meanwhile, we were making a load of pallets for Dana, and it was delivered at 11:00. Then we went to sawing. Homer got back about noon, and helped at various tasks in the afternoon. All in all, we had a very good day.

Wednesday, Homer kept the log deck filled and we sawed today. Homer was alternating between log deck and working in the new building laying concrete blocks. He did rest quite a while, according to his notes. He is about finished with the block work.

Thursday,the 31st, Homer brought us logs for a custom job, and moved out the pallet material as well as the custom when we had finished it. He laid a few more blocks in the morning and after lunch, finished the block laying.

The July pallet deliveries were, Dana, 11 trips, and 2,456 pallets, 640 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 290 pallets, New Haven, 540 pallets.

Farm and custom lumber sold in July. Gilbert Fortman, 21-1-one half x8x10', 4-2x4x14', 2-3x6x14', Leo Debes, 12 gate boards. Ralph Carnahan, quantity of lumber, Francis Dulle, mixed 1" lumber. Terry Inlow, 16-2x12x16', Neal Ott, 4-6x6x16', and 10-mixed length 2x4's. Larry Shutt, 2-2x10x16', 2-4x4x12', Frank Johnson, 71 eight foot boards. Andrews 2-3x12x8', Dick Culbertson, 2-1x12x8', Steve Jarrett, 1-3x8x6' Walnut, probably a mantle piece. DeWayne Baker, 73- mixed length 2x4's, Howard Schilling, 1 piece of Wild Cherry 12' long. Jeri Walter, 2-2x6x16', Harold Barnes, custom sawing. For a total of $625.00.

Friday August 1st, Homer went to doctor in Huntertown, and then on to get electrical items in Fort Wayne, as well as some repair parts at Tractor Supply. While he was gone, I helped get the Dana pallets ready, and loaded. Ted delivered them. After Ted returned we went to sawing . We had a pretty productive day. Nothing broke and we did not hit any metal in the logs.

Saturday, Homer helped the electricians with pulling wire in the new conduits that are going to the equipment in the pallet building. Homer also cut some of the limbs off of a Willow tree in the back yard, where the old service comes in, because the I &M power men will have to come and disconnect the original line that served the sawmill, after the new service is complete. Just Homer today.

Monday, the 4th, Homer repaired the pin that holds the drive cable drum on the sawmill. The shaft has a bolt through it the keep the drum from free turning on the shaft, and it broke. He then went to cleaning in the pallet building. After lunch, he went to Crane-Edmund, the see the purchasing agent, Larry Moore. They want some new sizes of pallets. While he was out, he also went to see trees at Andy Grube's. Homer has not felt well the last two day, heart rhythm problems, and head ache.

Tuesday, Homer went to the doctor this morning. On to Fort Wayne, for parts and materials. He could not get everything there, so he went to Kendallville, and was able to the rest of the items. In the evening, he helped with the electrical, along with the Pyle Electric guys. We have been doing a mix of pallet material, and custom sawing.

Wednesday, it was cool this morning. Homer finished the wiring to the cut off saw in the pallet building this morning. The crew has been sawing today. A load went to Dana.

Thursday,August 7th, Homer helped saw and make pallets all day. Bill had a commitment elsewhere. The progress was great today. This is also the last of these daily posts. Just like that, Homer did not write any more posts. It is evident, that he planned to write more, because he was using a journal from another year, and he had to write in the proper day for the actual date. He had written the Friday through the next Saturday of the next week, at the top of the page. You can get a clear picture of just what we do every day, plus some of the not so fortunate events, like the Hercules engine problems. There are the nearly daily light problems with the truck, issues with the forklift, and numerous other breakages. We will depend on what invoices I have for purchases, the check stubs and other information I find.

I have not said much about the chainsaws recently. One of them needed a new chain and drive sprocket today, and the bill was $31.25. One of the things Homer picked up when he was in Kendallville the other day, was at Sears. He was able to get a new water pump for the Hercules, believe it or not. He also picked up the 2 batteries for the series, big 12 volt system on the Hercules. Harry is still working at the Brand woods, and a neighbor next door. Warren is going to be gone next week, on vacation. Willard Pabst brought in a small load of logs and Homer paid him for them.

Allison's invoice for the month of July-August, was $40.88. The Duo-Fast staples and nails, were $554.50. We purchased V-belts and other bearings and supplies from Transmission and Fluid Equipment, for $62.66. The fire extinguishers were re-checked by Nowak & Williams, for $22.50. Homer had contact with Lloyd Gahimer, and he has some used roofing for sale,Homer got for $50.00.

Hubert Provines has been overhauling a Chevrolet 6 cylinder engine, which Homer is going to install in the Terra-Trac. It's original engine has been completely overhauled 2 times, and both times, it was bored out, cylinder wise, and some of the bearings were undersized as well, and there is nothing left to repair in it's engine. Homer has already stretched the frame to accommodate the longer engine, and is waiting for this engine.

The previous month's electric was $41.99. After a few months of either $50.00 or above, it is evident that we are in a down turn of the amount of pallets that Dana is using. Harry is now finished with Buford Brands timber cut and skid and haul. By August 29th, Harry is well into the woods of both Grube and Garman. There is also a little timber from Turk's, as well. It says on the check stub, that Homer hauled the little from Turks, and Harry cut it.

We are at the end of the month, and here is the pallet delivery information. Dana, 2,492 pallets, 640 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 580 pallets, New Haven, 540 pallets. It is good that both of our smaller customers and the farm and custom lumber have been better than usual. It has leveled out the loss of Dana pallets we did not deliver.

The farm and custom lumber sales for August, Guy Freeman, 2-1x16"x8', William Burns, 16 pieces of 16' two inch plank. James Grimm, 18 pieces of 1x5", mixed lengths. Marvin Woebbeking, 16 mixed length 1x5's, Wallace Miles, 23 tapered fence posts. Terry Inlow, mixed one and 2 inch lumber. Virgil Ely, one hay rack sill, probably either 6, or 8" high and 3-4" thick. Ray Barnhart, 13 pieces of 14' gate material. Dwight Carnahan, 20-1x5x16'. The next slip says it is for both Mr. Carnahan, and William Burns, which were neighbors, about a half mile apart. They got 4 pieces of 2 inch lumber. Maurice Kline, small amount of lumber, Arnold Milks, 3-2x8x12', Roland Seiler, 8 pieces of 14 and 16' lumber, Al Hullinger, 28 pieces of mixed lumber. They paid a total of $365.00.

September 4th, someone went to get more of the Pine boards to cut up for Dana, to make the spacers for clutch plates, and also some more roofing for the extended roof on the new steam building. The Pine was, $138.10, and the roofing was, $107.50. The most recent fill of the tanks for the trucks and the mill was $294.69. I have no way to know how much was for either one.

On the 8th, the staple bill came, in the amount of $538.35. The month's worth of supplies we purchased from Allison Corp. was $63.17. As a side note, we are paying on the loan for the electric construction, at the rate of $600.00 per month. We got some of the repair parts from Auburn Automotive supply Co, on South Wayne St. in Auburn. This was probably brakes or starter related.

I now have a reason for Homer stopping writing in his journal. I personally do not remember about this, but he wrote a price quote to Crane-Edmund, on the 15th, of September, and comments in the letter, that he has been in the hospital, and in bed for 3 weeks. Because it was this long, he just did not get re-started writing in the journal. The price quotes are for the new types and sizes of pallets they had us make. That quote page is included as the next page after this one.

On the 22nd, There is another slip for Auburn Automotive, and it is definitely for brake parts for the International truck, in the amount of $50.21.

The yearly premium for our sawmill liability insurance is due again, and to be paid in advance, all at once for $5,000.00. "OUCH"

My mother is being paid for her services as Secretary-Treasurer, weekly. She has been doing a lot more than just answer the phone. She was being paid earlier, and then it stopped, and the accountant said, "get back at it".

Now that we do not have Homer's journal, this will be moving faster. We are at the end of the month again, and the pallets delivered are, Dana, only 10 trips this month, 2,113 pallets, and 1,340 blocking pieces, Crane-Edmund, 808 pallets. New Haven, 525 pallets.

The farm and custom for September, F. Metrailer, custom saw Walnut logs, Arthur Johnson mixed lumber, Terry Inlow, 564 feet of Oak lumber, Gary Moore, mixed one and 2 inch thick lumber, Jack Thomas, mixed 1 and 2 inch lumber, 12 and 16' long. Cloyd Anderson, 6-2x8x8', Jake Smith, a quantity of heavy plank and 15-1x10x16'. Lester Brown, 3-12"x12"x4'. John Haynes, 36-2x6x16', Herbert Ott, mixed 7' long material. Bob Price, mixed Oak lumber, Larry Ehlers, fence boards, and 4-2x8x12'. Marvin Dowden, 55-1x4x12', 10-1x5x12'. Marvin Woebbeking, 21-1x4x12', Robert VanLeuven, 5-2x8x14'. Lester Yoder, 19 pieces of mixed width and length lumber. Lester Yoder another list of 8-10-and 12 foot long, lumber. These paid us $772.00.

October begins with a slip that indicates that the large air compressor has had a break down, in the amount of $205.15, from a company in Elkhart, Indiana. The company is, Air Equipment Sales and Service. The monthly bill for staples is, $369.00, and Allison's, for repair parts is $11.83.

Early in the month, we received a news letter for the year 1976, from the Department Of Natural Resources. It was specific about the new year, with regard to timber buyers and agents for the buyers. "Anyone, trying to buy timber who is not either a buyer or his registered agent, will be arrested. Agent, means, those who bid on timber, without being agent or buyer, who is registered, is in violation.

Auburn, Indiana

Sept. 15, 1975

Mr. Larry Moore

Crane Edmund Corp.

Butler, Indiana

Sorry for the delay on these prices, I've been in the hospital and in bed for three weeks.

Here is the list of 5 new pallets.

| | |
|---|---|
| 54-1/2" x 32"-- | $2.70 each – 4-way |
| 44-1/2" x 34-1/2"-- | $2.60 each-- 4-way |
| 45-1/2" x 29-1/2"-- | $2.50 each-- 4-way |
| 35" x 28"-- | $2.00 each-- 2-way |
| 32" x42"-- | $2.15 each-- 2-way |

Sincerely,

Homer Abel, president

Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

The original hand written copy that Homer wrote was too faint to copy. This is the text of it.

Beginning, October 16th, we started paying for the new 3 phase electric, on a monthly bill. This means that the new electric was connected about September 12-15th. The present bill is $42.55. We still have more equipment to connect to the system. Yet to come is a 30 HP motor to run the edger, and, that will remove one belt from the load that the Hercules is operating. The total we paid to I&M, as our part of the new line was $3,000.00. There will not be any more burned fuses and we will not brown out from overload.

The new system operates as what is called an Open Delta system. There are two transformers on our supply pole, and they work to generate the 3rd. phase for us to use. As was stated in the paperwork, we are limited to a maximum of about 30 HP as the largest motor we can operate, on this system. Any system operating as a 3 phase system, has a different type of electric meter. It is a demand meter, and as such, there is a hand on the meter that records the highest demand at any given point during the monthly cycle, and even if you only hit that high one time during the month, you pay at the rate for that amount of usage. Therefore, it becomes important not to start 2 motors at the exact time, as that causes a spike in the demand. Starting a load is always the highest peak for any given motor.

October 18th, was an auction in St. Joe, Indiana, of the equipment from the local milk dairy, owned by Maurice Kline. Homer purchased $425.00 worth of motors, switches, conduit, and other supplies, as well as several sets of rollers to move product around the plant. For those of us that attended the high school in this little town, this dairy was a special place. We would go there either at lunch time, or after school and get snacks, from their selection of items. There were several various candy bars, soft drinks, and gum and other things that we liked to purchase. In the afternoon, we had about an extra ten minutes to go there because, our buses had to pick up the grade school children at Spencerville before they came to pick us up. It was about 2 mile between the two towns.

Beginning about October 25th, Shafter Baker began bringing us logs he was cutting from his woods, and we would pay him on the spot for them. The first check for the logs was for $50.00.

I went to Fort Wayne, and picked up grinding wheels for the Jockey mill saw grinder, on the 29th. They came a dozen at a time, for $29.80. National Mill Supply was where I got them.

Shafter Baker made two more deliveries on the 29th, and 30th. The total of those trips was, $78.90.

The October pallets delivered, Dana, 14 trips, 2,790 pallets, 1,625 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 970 pallets, that is a record for them. We made 7 trips there, this month. New Haven, 265 pallets.

The October farm lumber and custom. Buddy Baird, 118 fence and gate boards, and 16 fence posts. Gilbert Fortman, 40 pieces of mixed sizes, both 1" and 2" material. Larry Ehlers, 9 pieces of 2x4 and 2x8 material. Jerry Sprague, 1-6x6x12', and 21-2x6x12', as well as enough 1" to cover 12x24 feet of surface. Frank Johnson, 44-1x6x8', Jerry Heffley, 12-2x8x8', Donald Johnson, 64 feet of 1x12", Lester Yoder, 4 heavy plank. Ray Barnhart, 19 pieces of mixed lumber, John Martin Smith, Cherry and Poplar, sawing, Terry Inlow, mixed lumber, John Martin Smith, more Cherry lumber, Marvin Woebbeking, 120-1 and 1/4"x 5x10', 24-2x6x8', Sechler's Pickles, 200 pieces of 3/4"x4"x38 and 1/4" and 18-4x4x11'.Kenneth Koeppe, 9-2x8x16'. This brought in $1,432.00.

We had a lot of fire wood deliveries for the beginning of the cold season, and I will list them on the next page. The goodwill we have in the county, is staggering. Everyone tells someone else, it's nice.

The firewood, for September, was on another sheet, and I just located it. Dale Johnson 2 loads, Clayton Baker, Mrs. Roberts, Chester Lockwood, Ernest Janke, William Urban, Bill Kruse, Richard Duncan, Jake Eicher, and Charles Burkmire. This brought $176.00.

October firewood, Clayton Baker, Mrs. Zehr, Henry Walter, J. Hanawalt, Henry Link, Julian Schaefer. For a total of $96.00. Shafter Baker, more logs, we paid, $34.00

November begins with the usual, sawing and making pallets, plus more custom sawing. As far as I can tell, Homer is mostly, doing well at this time. He does, however, stop by me during the day and say, "I am going in for a while. Sometimes he will be back in an hour or two, and other times it is the next morning. I do know, this is when his Angina, is bothering him, and he will rest and be good again.

The monthly bill from Allison's came and it is small this month, at $29.14. Shafter Baker was in again, and the quality of the logs he is bringing is above average. We spent $262.91 for Spruce boards for the Pine stakes for Dana, this time. They were all 1x12"x 16', and being Spruce, they cost a little more. Harry has finished hauling Garman's logs. Homer also sent a check to Samuel Hook for the logs from there. The Andrew Grube tract is finished as well, and Homer sent the last check for those logs. There were also logs that came from Richard Myers, and they were paid for.

On November 13th, the bill for last month's gasoline was paid, $204.20. The final payment to the Pyle Electric Co, was made and it was, $771.76. All of the present equipment is connected and being used. The present electric bill for October is, $52.00.

Warren is helping the Holman's farm again, making it likely that I am doing more of the sawing with the mill.

There has been a change at Crane-Edmund, in the purchasing staff. They want a price list, and Homer sent them one, which I will place next after this page in the story.

Harry has finished the timber at Kenneth Turk's. Don Lee brought in 3 logs to sell to us.

I have come to the end of November, and here are the pallet numbers for the month, Dana, we made 12 trips, and 2,403 pallets, and 1,660 blocking pieces. Crane-Edmund, 490 pallets. New Haven, 235 pallets.

Farm and custom lumber for November, Wallace Miles, 800 feet of Soft Maple, Maurice Kline, 8-1x5x12', Gilbert Fortman, 156 board feet of mixed lumber, William Goings, 500 feet of Oak lumber, Larry Dove, mixed Oak lumber, Gene Wilson, 3-2x12x16', 1-2x24"x24', 1-2x6x16', and 2-2x6x8 feet. That one piece of Oak for Gene Wilson was from a near perfect, long log. I know it was possible with the mill we have at this time, but that one piece was something special. I do not think it is a misprint. These slips brought in $356.00.

The November firewood, H.L. Bowers, Charles Baber, Jake Eicher, Mrs. Roth, Clayton Baker, Ramar,WhiteyWakenight, Phyllis Thomas, Larry Madden, John Baker, August Lundquist, for $160.00.

December 3rd, I went to the Anderson's, where I bought tires, batteries, and general merchandise, for a total of $ 560.40, in three different buildings. This probably took half of the day to accomplish.

Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

Auburn, Indiana

November 19, 1975

Crane-Edmund Corp.

Butler, Indiana

Jan Jacobs

Here is the price list you requested.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pallet –Pedal 36" x 36" | $2.00 each |
| Pallet –Schwinn 32" x 40" | $2.00each |
| Pallet –Prod 38" x46" | $2.39each |

As of
April 19, 1975

The following, including the 4-way entry notches
(@ 35 cents each peer pallet.)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Pallet--Seat Link 29" x29" | $1.89 each | |
| Pallet--Seat Link 60" x 35" | $3.35 each | |
| Pallet--Seat Link 32" x 44" | $2.30 each | |
| Pallet--Seat Link 28"x41-1/2" | $2.45 each | |
| | | |
| 54-1/2" x 32" | $2.90 each | |
| 44-1/2" x 34-1/2" | $2.60 each | 4-way entry |
| 45-1/2" x 29-1/2" | $2.50 each | |
| | | |
| 35 x" x28" | $2.00 each | 2-way entry |
| 32" x 42" | $2.15 each | |

(Signature) Mrs. Homer Abel

(This was originally hand written, would not copy.)

December 4th, Homer went to All Phase Electric, and Allen Industrial Supplies Inc. His trip was to get some of wire, conduit, fixtures and other things needed to start wiring for the edger to have all electric operation, rather than the Hercules. Between the two businesses, he spent $280.00. All he lacks now, is the installation of these materials, and the 30 HP motor. Warren has been back for about 3 weeks, and is doing most of the log sawing.

December 8th, a Saturday, Homer went to Kenneth Baughman's auction of farm items. He spent $150.00 on tools and other items we can use in the sawmill.

About 4 weeks ago, we got a load of cement and did ½ of the rear of the 1960 building. It cost $306.00. Now all that is left to concrete, is the area where the log deck is for the Belsaw mill. The area that is left is about 12' by 24' and we will get it done some time later.

The Allison bill for the month is only $34.92. The Duo-Fast invoice, is quite large, this month at, $952.40. That might be 2 months worth, considering some of the other monthly bills from them.

The first full month's electric bill on the 3 phase system is $74.24. The nice thing, there are no more burned fuses, and we now have electric wiring that meets the requirements of OSHA, rules. There is the need to learn how to start our larger pieces of equipment, so as not to raise the demand pointer on the meter.

One of the chainsaws needed a new chain and some small repairs, at a cost of $41.71. I do not see any check stubs indicating that we were having any large breakdowns at this time.

December 11th, Homer went to Nussbaum Electric Supply and purchased the 30 HP motor for the edger. It had a price of $559.72. When it is installed, it will be nice to be able to rip something through the edge without starting the Hercules engine. He also got a magnetic switch to start the motor, from another supplier. The thing was, we now had a lot of 3 phase switches and other items, from the former Kline Dairy, where he bought a lot of that equipment. All that needed to be changed was the magnetic starting section, to match the motor size.

Even though we have been slow with the Dana pallets, we have had a very good year, and everyone got an extra week's worth of pay as vacation pay. Nice before Christmas.

On December 15th, Homer had everything ready to figure which pulleys and belts he would need for the Edger drive, and he went to Transmission and Fluid Equipment to purchase those items. Those parts cost nearly $100.00. It would require 3 belts, that are matched.

On the 19th, the newest order from Beltraction Company came, and we now have a new supply of bolt loosner, belt dressing, electric motor cleaner, spray Silicone, and gasket sealer. I will say, their materials have been well researched, and tested, and they really do what they are made for.

Harry has been paid as of December 22, for the rest of Turk's, and Noel's cutting and hauling.

The next bill from Duo-Fast came and is $618.60, paid on 12-29, 1975. Harry is working the Maxwell tract now, and it is going well. We needed a new set of belts on the automatic slab saw, as well as one new pulley for it, at a cost of $48.39.

I have been working on the figures for a price increase for the Dana pallets, and have a preliminary list as of the the last week of the year. It has to be looked at and figured by my father yet. I presently have some that are projected to rise 5%, some 10%, and a couple at 15%. I do not know what dad thinks about this yet.

Homer ordered a Belsaw, belt grinder, that uses 1" wide belts and they run around 3 pulleys. The belts are a total of 42" long. The sander-grinder comes with a base to basically be able to stand at it and use it. It cost $153.45. I can see it getting a lot of use, for all kinds of things around the mill. I do not know what belts he ordered with it. There are about 5-6 different grits available. From 40-220, which is very coarse to quite fine.

The end of the year has come, and here are the December totals for pallets, Dana, there were 14 loads for December, 2,585 pallets, Crane-Edmund, 600 pallets. New Haven, 552 pallets.

The firewood, Dale Johnson, 2 loads, Charles Baber, Henry Link, Danny Walker, Tom Mack, John Baker, 2 loads.

The farm and custom lumber, does not have any paperwork.

We finished the year with a gross income of $118,880.76. There have been ups and downs, but it has been good and some wonderful things have happened. Most of the equipment has had some repairs, and is currently working well. The new 3-phase electric in in and operating. The new steam mill building is slowly coming along, as well. Homer has let off on cutting timber, because he has had some health problems, and most of them are better at the present time.

1976

We have a good crew of employees to start the new year, Warren Carnahan, Bill VanAuken, Ted Winslow, Homer, the always thinking about the next thing, man, my mother, without who we would really be hard pushed to do all she does for the business, and myself, who would like to think I know a lot, but there is so much more I still do not even think about. We are optimistic about the new year, hoping for the Dana pallets to pick up again, even if it means we have to hire more help.

We are in the 4th year of being required to license the timber buyer, and their agents. Homer is the licensed buyer, and Harry Strong and George Abel are agents for the year.

Homer has kept a running list of possible timber tract leads, which I, at the time knew nothing about. There were some on the list that he did buy timber from, and there were others, that he could not come to agreement with. I will not list them here, but the list ran into the low 20's of people he either had seen or needed to talk to. I have a better paper trail for 1976, than I did last year. Harry was delivering logs in the first couple of days of the year. They were coming from the Maxwell woods. According to the paperwork the loads were ranging between 900 feet scale to 1,519 feet of scale. Nine loads came in from that location by the 7th, of January, and they totaled, 10,902 feet of scale.

Homer went to Auburn, on the 6th, to pick up a valve stem and boots for a tractor tire, probably the forklift on the log yard. If we fixed the problem, it meant it was a front tire, because the rears were loaded with fluid.

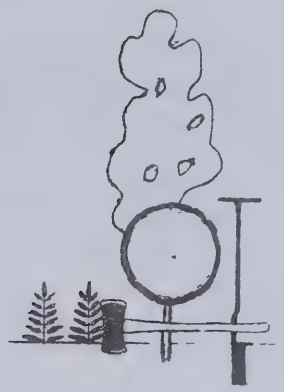
Warren and Ted both worked 50 hours the first week of the year. That sounds good, we are busy.

As of 1976

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## STATE OF INDIANA

**DIVISION OF FORESTRY**



TIMBER BUYERS LICENSING LAW
General Information Sheet

(1) What is the Timber Buyers Licensing Law? It is an industry sponsored law passed by the 1972 General Assembly requiring the licensing and bonding of everyone buying "trees, standing or felled or logs", from a "timber grower" which can be used for lumber, manufacturing or processing purposes.

(2) What is a Timber Grower? He is the owner, tenant, or anyone else who has the authority to sell the timber.

(3) Are there any exclusions? Yes. The law excludes firewood, Christmas trees, fruit or ornamental trees or wood products not used or to be used for building, structural, manufacturing or processing purposes. Also, a person who occasionally purchases timber for sawing or processing for his own use and not for resale is excluded.

(4) How about out-of-state or export buyers? This law applies to any buyer buying timber from any timber grower in Indiana.

(5) What will the license cost and how much bond will have to be posted? An annual license will cost $30.00. The bond, will be a surety bond and will be based on the monetary value a timber buyer or company purchased last year. If he/they did not buy timber last year, then the bond shall be on the timber in the amount he/they expect to buy this year. The minimum bond is $500.00 and the maximum is $10,000.00. Roughly, it is 10% of what he/they purchased or hope to purchase annually.

(6) If a person or company has more than one buyer, will each have to pay the $30.00 and have a separate bond? No, Only the original applicant whether he is a single person, partnership, company, etc.

(7) Will every sawmill or processor have to have a license? Possibly not. If a mill or plant buys everything from licensed producers and buys nothing from a timber grower, including logs cut and hauled by a grower, a license is not required. This would also apply to custom mills.

(8) What is the bond for? The bond, which is made payable to the Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, shall be used to pay the timber grower for timber purchased by a buyer but not paid for, or for timber wrongfully cut and not paid for.

(9) How will I know if a buyer is licensed? Each buyer will be furnished a card giving his name, the person or company he is buying timber for, the address of the place of business and the license number. This information should be included on all contracts involving the selling of timber. If there is any doubt, you can call or write the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, 613 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Telephone (317) 633-6517.

(10) If a buyer or his employees cut over a property line and do not make restitution, can the landowner proceed against the buyer bond? Yes. The law applies to any timber cut or appropriated that was not purchased.

(11) If a grower agrees to sell his timber for much less than it is actually worth and later finds he made a mistake, can he collect from the bond? No. The law was not intended to regulate the price of timber and law or no law, the negotiated sale is between the seller and the buyer.

(12) If in the above instance a buyer uses fraudulent methods to obtain the timber, could he be forced to pay a fair price? If fraud could be proven, yes.

(13) Can a person be arrested for buying timber without a license? Yes, and if he is convicted, he shall be fined no less than $100.00 or imprisoned for no more than six (6) months, or both.

(14) For what other reasons could a "timber buyer" be prosecuted under this law? Any timber buyer who violates any provisions of this act, or any timber buyer who refuses to permit inspection of his premises, books, accounts or records as provided in the act shall be subject to prosecution under the law.

(15) If I am a timber buyer as defined by the law, when will I be required to purchase a license? Before you begin to purchase timber from Indiana timber growers. You must renew your license and bond annually. The license year runs from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year.

(16) Will partial licenses be issued if I begin business in the middle of the license year? No. The Department of Natural Resources will issue you a license at full fee cost and requiring full bonding which will be good until the end of that license year.

(17) If I am a "timber grower", does this law guarantee that I will be treated fairly by a timber buyer? No. This merely gives you assurance that you will be paid for timber purchased from you at the agreed upon price if the party purchasing your timber is a Licensed Timber Buyer. It is very important that you deal only with licensed buyers to protect your own interests.

If you have any questions we have failed to answer, do not hesitate to contact:

Timber Licensing Forester
Division of Forestry
613 State Office Building
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The loads that we are delivering to Crane-Edmund, are averaging $325.50, gross income per load,at this time. There were 11 loads in January, 1976. Their stationery, says, "Crane Edmund an ABS Company" now.

The boards we get for Dana, that we re-cut, this time are Pine, and the price is $182.64. This is enough to make 1,000 pieces for them.

The newest electric bill for the sawmill is $81.41. Yes, it is higher than the old service, but there are no problems, and everything works.

We received a fresh order January 14th, from The McHugh Company, of 6 dozen lumber crayons, ad 100 saw bits. The saw bits were, $29.00. Remember when we started using these bits, they were 14 cents a piece? Now they are a little bit more than double that. The crayons were $2.75 per dozen.

On the 15th, the McCollough Super-Pro 80 chain saw needed a new chain, and a starter spring, plus a spark plug, and 6 cans of oil to mix with the gas, at a cost of $32.38.

On the 19th, the new order of items from Beltraction came in. They were 1 dozen to a box, and 10 boxes. 3-Silicone spray, and one each of the others. The ones I did not mention last time are, spray degreaser, a tool overcoat spray, for use to protect tools that are not used a lot from rust. The last one I did not mention previously, is a threading oil for cutting threads in a mix of metals, and it has a mix of fatty oils as well as other thread cutting materials.

On the 20th, Homer went to Mineweld in Fort Wayne to get a tank of acetylene, for $9.78. He was also at All-Phase Electric Co. to pick up the final items for the Edger motor hook-up.

Ralph and Harry finished the Cottonwood at Ione Wilson's on the 22nd of the month.

The order that we received from McHugh's, a few days ago, was more than the one box of teeth, and the crayons, and it was to have come directly to the sawmill, but instead, it came from Simonds factory warehouse in Chicago, to McHugh's, and then they sent it on to us. This part of the order was much larger, 1,100 bits, and 90 shanks to hold the bits in the saws. It totaled, $496.10. They apologized for the error, which was made at Lansing. The order arrived on January 23rd.

Harry is now working at the Bartles woods, and 3 loads were delivered on the 24th, a good day. He just finished Maxwell's.

The next batch of the Pine for Dana, cost us $137.07, for Spruce, again. You take what you can get.

Homer advanced another $525.00 to Clayton Mitchner for timber to be cut yet. At least it is ahead.

Homer also made agreement to purchase timber from Alfred F.Sherer. The deal accounts for 54 trees, and noted that there is a bee tree, that is not to be cut. The rest of the agreement is pretty much like many of the others, earlier. This one is in Mark Township in Ohio.

The gasoline bills, I have some. Dated 1-6-1976, truck, 140 gallon, and the mill tank, 141 gallon, The mill tank does not pay road tax, and the price is 40.5 cents per gallon. Truck is 52.5 cents, gallon.

ABEL'S SAWMILL, INC.
R. R. #1
Auburn, Indiana 46706



Auburn, Indiana
Jan. 13, 1976

J. H. McNerney
Crane Edmund Corp.
Butler, Indiana

Re - Prices on Blanket Orders
#15310 & 15335

Dear Sir:

Here are the prices we must have after Feb. 1, 1976;

60 X 35 - $3.69
45½ X 29½ - 2.75
14½ X 34½ - 2.86
35 X 28 - 2.20
54½ X 32 - 3.17
29 X 29 - 2.05
28 X 41½ - 2.70
32 X 40 - 2.20

If these prices are acceptable and if we wish us to maintain the inventory as specified in the Blanket orders at these prices, please confirm before Feb. 1 - Thank You.

Sincerely

Homer Abel, Pres.
Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

On January 31st, Homer sent a letter to the purchasing agent at New Haven Wire and Cable, inquiring about the fact that we have not been paid for any of the pallets we have delivered to their plant since October. The amount totals just over $2,000.00, at this time. About 3 days later he gets the check in the mail. There had been a change of personnel in the office, and this just "Fell through the cracks". They sent an apology as well.

We have not made any of the Dana, PE-1402, heavy pallets for over a year, and they notified us that they are going to need some by the middle of February. We have let the Duo-Fast nail gun go back to them, as that pallet is the only one we made with it. Homer contacted the mill at Ney, Ohio, and they have hammer drive nails there. So, he went to get a 50 pound box of the nails, so we can get started. Their price was much better than the supply houses in Fort Wayne. He paid $49.40 for the 50 pounds.

After a lot of consideration, Homer only requested a raise of price on 3 of the items we make for Dana. They were PE-1405,1403, and 1407. That was sent to them on February 1st.

Bill VanAuken left our employment on February 4th, He will be missed, He was here from 9-11-1972 to 2-4 of this year. He was one of our school-work program students, early in his time with us.

On February 12th, Harry had a good day, as he is hauling from Dale Goings woods, and by the road, it is only 2-3/4 mile to the mill. That day, he made 6 trips in with logs. Of coarse, he already had them cut and skidded, ready to load.

Homer had ordered more log marking crayons from Lansing, and they came in, but there has been a price increase, to $3.25 per dozen. This is not much, but is a sign of rising cost for everything.

Homer made an agreement with James Ferguson, for 82 trees, and it seems, that they just agreed, without a written agreement. Homer paid $2,500.00 for the trees.

The belt grinder-sander arrived on February the 16th, and Homer did order 4 different grits of belts. He ordered 60, 80, 100, 150 grit, 3 of each to begin. The actual machine was back ordered, and is just getting here. It was ordered on December 31st.

Saturday, the 14th, Homer went to Royce Gibford's auction, and bought 8 different lots of items, mostly small items that he felt we could use. He spent, $28.00.

So far, Harry has cut, and hauled 12,592 feet of logs from Dale Goings. This land is being cleared to be farmed, after the trees are gone, there will be a bulldozer hired, and clear the land. After that, an open ditch will be dug to drain the area, because it is low. The ditch will be pumped to the other side of State Road 8, where there is an open ditch already. This was done at a time when there were no government rules about low land drainage.

The first Duo-Fast pick up of staples, for the year was in mid January, and Ted had been at New Haven to deliver pallets, and then went to get the staples. I know this by looking at the deliveries to New Haven and the date the staples were picked up, after looking at the date they were paid for. The 18 boxes of staples cost $624.05.

Harry had a good day hauling logs from Dale Goings on 2-28-1976, he moved 5 loads today.

ABEL'S SAWMILL, INC.
R. R. #1
Auburn, Indiana 46706



Auburn, Indiana
Jan. 5, 1976

Dana Corp.
Spicer Clutch Div.
Auburn, Indiana

Attn. Mr. Russell Ridgeway:

We find it necessary to increase prices on pallets ~~as~~ to the following. Effective Feb. 1, 1976.

PE 1402 - $6.20
PE 1403 - 4.90
PE 1404 - 2.50
PE 1405 - 2.82
PE 1405-A - 1.32
PE 1405-1 - 1.40
PE 1406 - 4.82
PE 1407 - 1.58
PE 1407 - 4.12
PE 1-114 - .47
PE 1415 - .24
PE 1422 - .36 - Same

If you wish any other pallets added, same price - .35 per pallet

Please Acknowledge

Sincerely
Homer Abel, Pres.
Abel's Sawmill, Inc.

SPICER CLUTCH DIVISION
P.O. BOX 191 AUBURN, IND. 46706
DANA
DANA CORPORATION

February 3, 1976

Abel Sawmill, Inc.
R. R. #1
Auburn, Indiana 46706

Attention: Mr. Homer Abel

Re: P. O. No. 2729, Part No. PE-1405 - 35" x 35" Pallet

Dear Sir:

Over the past two years we have purchased over 39,500 of the above pallets from you which at $2.57 each represented a sales to you of over $100,000.00. At the same time that you are increasing your cost to us by 10%, we are able to re-source to a different supplier at a 16% savings over your old cost. The difference in these two figures represents a savings to Dana of over $13,000.00 per year to re-source to the new vendor.

Normally I would not hesitate to re-source completely but because of your past history of quality and service, I feel that you should have this opportunity to review your prices on PE-1405 to see if any concessions can be made.

In the meantime you should continue to supply our needs on PE-1405 thru the month of February 1976. This should give both of us a chance to see what can be done and to see the best direction to follow.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Elliott

Vern A. Elliott
Buyer
Agricultural & Industrial Cl.

ib

TELEX NO. 23-2659 — TELEPHONE 219/925-3800

SPICER CLUTCH DIVISION
P.O. BOX 191 AUBURN, IND. 46706

DANA CORPORATION

March 1, 1976

Abel Sawmill, Inc.
R. R. #1
Auburn, Indiana 46706

Attention: Mr. Homer Abel

Re: P. O. No. 02729 Part No. PE-1405 Pallet 35" x 35"

Dear Homer:

I must apologize for not writing sooner as it was an oversight on my part.

I have decided that you should continue supplying the above pallet to Dana Corporation. I know I can save some money by using a different supplier but I feel that your past history of dependability and service are also worth money to us. You have always kept us supplied and at the same time have not over-supplied us.

Thank you and am looking forward to your continued service as one of our more important suppliers.

Sincerely yours,

Vern A. Elliott

Vern A. Elliott
Buyer
Agricultural & Industrial Cl.

ib

The January-February firewood deliveries, John Baker,3 loads, Dale Johnson 3 loads, Pugsley 2 loads, Tom Mack 2 loads, K. Roberts, Wallace Miles, Pulver, and one load to Leo, no name. $224.00.

I missed the pallet deliveries in January, and now here they are. Dana, 2,659 pallets, and 1,800 blocking pieces, Crane Edmund, 1,455 Pallets of 11 different sizes. New Haven, 550 pallets.

Now, February pallet deliveries, Dana, 2,381 pallets, and 470 blocking pieces, Crane Edmund, 715 pallets, of 7 different sizes, New Haven, 275 pallets.

March begins with getting the two truck and one trailer license plates a day late. That must have been Homer's first thing today, because there was a delivery to Dana, according to my records. The three plates cost a total of, $255.75. The trucks were, the International, and the Chevy dump truck. The Ford dump truck did not get it's plate today.

Sometime recently, Homer has been in contact with Frick Lumber Company on U.S. 6 at Brimfield, because there is a business card for their buyer, Roy E. Frick, with a date on it.

Homer contacted Jack Buttermore, a private hauler, to have him deliver number 1 limestone, for the driveways, and he started delivering on March 3, three loads, and again on the 11th, 2 loads. These 5 loads totaled 86-3/4 ton of stone, and we paid $424.04 for it. That covered about 350 feet of driveway that was turning to mush about 6 inches deep. These stone averaged 3-1/2 inches in diameter, and made a solid base again. Jack was hauling from the quarry on Ardmore Ave in the Waynedale area of Fort Wayne.

Just as a side note, most of the area that was covered with that stone is still solid now, as I write this in 2022. Even though some of the area is now grown over by grass, it is solid.

Homer is getting his South Bend metal lathe ready for more different jobs, with some new jig pieces to hold the cutting tool in other positions. He spent $92.14 on new tooling.

There is a new blanket order for the Dana PE-1422, which is the Pine sticks. It will follow this page.

Dwight Carnahan, is selling 120 marked trees to Abel's Sawmill, Inc. for $3,800.00 . A copy of the contract is on a sheet after this page.

When Homer purchased the nails from Ney Lumber Company, they asked if he could use some logs for pallet material. He said he could, and now in early March, they delivered three loads. Most of them are 10 feet long, and that is a good length for us. They were mixed species, and although not large logs, they would make nice pallet material. We paid $90.00 per thousand for them.

The next sawmill electric bill is $92.77. We are learning to be careful about the spike of starting equipment, and doing better.

The average load of pallets delivered to New Haven, pays us $340.00 gross income. In January ther were 3 loads, and in February, one load. In March, there was a load on the 15th, and whoever took them, went to pick up the pine at Sutherland Lumber, for the Dana spacer sticks. This time, the Pine was $249.60. We purchased 43-1x10x16' this time.

310 A

No. 0995 Dept. Date Mar. 11 1976

Name Agreement between Abel Lumber Co. and Dwight Canaan to Use

Address

| SOLD BY | CASH | C. O. D. | CHARGE | ON ACCT. | MDSE. RETD. | PAID OUT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paint Stick | | (Orange) | marked trees | | | (129) |

| QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Hundred Trees - to be removed when felled within 1 yr. - to prevent damage to other trees etc as far as possible. Woods to the East of Rd. 53 on former Rodine Farm - woods roads runs North & East Property lines - Tops to be kept in woods or pulled back in Buffer not to assign this agreement. | | |
| | Ck today for #3800.00 In full - | | |
| | Also Dead Trees suitable for pallet log - | | |
| | $2.00 per M. Scaled after cutting & paid when done | | |
| | Homer Abel - Pres. Abel Lumber Co. Inc | | |
| | Dwight Canaan | | |

Customer's Order No. | Rec'd By

KEEP THIS SLIP FOR REFERENCE

Rediform 5H 32

310 B

BLANKET ORDER NUMBER 3 40772

**DANA CORPORATION**
**PURCHASE ORDER**

(SHOW THIS NUMBER ON ALL SHIPPING AND BILLING DOCUMENTS) LIGHT B 407

☐ RELEASE ☒ ORDER ☐ INTER-PLANT ORDER

PT. NO. PE 14

This order is ☐ is not ☒ subject to Federal Excise Tax. Exemption certificate on reverse side.

This order is ☐ is not ☒ subject to State Sales Tax. Exemption certificate attached or previously furnished or purchase is exempt as interstate shipment.

SUPPLIER ABEL SAWMI

THE DANA CORPORATION BUYER, HEREBY AGREES TO PURCHASE AND RECEIVE, AND

ABEL SAWMILL, INC.
R. R. #1
AUBURN, INDIANA 46706

CODE

SHIP TO:
DANA CORPORATION
CLUTCH & MARINE DIVISION
FIFTH & BRANDON ST.
P. O. BOX 191
AUBURN, INDIANA 46706

CHARGE AND MAIL INVOICE NOT LATER THAN ONE DAY FOLLOWING SHIPMENT TO:

SAME AS ABOVE
ATTN: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

SELLER, TO SELL AND DELIVER SUPPLIES OR SERVICES SPECIFIED HEREIN, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON THE FACE AND REVERSE SIDE HEREOF.

| REQUISITIONER | REQ. NO. | PAYMENT TERMS | F.O.B. | TRANSP. TERMS | ROUTING | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ELLIOTT | | Net 30 Days | Del. | | | 3-8-76 |

| ACCOUNT NO. | ITEM NO. | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 246-44 | | | THIS IS A BLANKET ORDER FOR:<br><br>PART NO. PE 1422 1-1/8" X 3/4" X 36" WOOD STAIR - MUST BE KILN DRIED LUMBER<br><br>THIS ORDER IS PRICED ACCORDING TO OUR CONTEMPLATED RELEASED QUANTITIES<br><br>YOU ARE TO FABRICATE AND SHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR PURCHASE ORDER CHANGE - SHIPPING SCHEDULE FORM NO. A-81-13. OUR USUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS WILL APPLY IN ALL CASES.<br><br>THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES BLANKET PURCHASE ORDER NO. B 02532 DATED 5-2-67 | $2.36 EA. |

IF THIS IS A BLANKET ORDER COVERING A PORTION OR ALL OF OUR REQUIREMENTS SUBJECT TO THE ISSUANCE OF RELEASES BY US, THIS ORDER MAY BE CANCELLED BY US AT ANY TIME WE DETERMINE IT IS ADVISABLE TO DO SO AND UPON GIVING NOTICE OF SUCH CANCELLATION NEITHER PARTY SHALL HAVE ANY FURTHER OBLIGATION HEREUNDER EXCEPT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO RELEASES ISSUED PRIOR TO SUCH CANCELLATION. WE ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY SHIPMENT BASED ON A VERBAL RELEASE.

NO FABRICATION IS PERMITTED IN EXCESS OF THIRTY DAYS BEYOND THE CURRENT MONTHS RELEASE UNLESS SPECIFIED.

ADVANCE MATERIAL AUTHORIZATION ALLOWS FOR PROCUREMENT OF RAW MATERIAL ONLY, NO FABRICATION PERMITTED UNLESS AUTHORIZED.

ORDERS MUST BE FILLED AT PRICES NO GREATER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED ABOVE OR IF NO PRICE IS SPECIFIED, AT PRICES NO GREATER THAN YOUR LAST SHIPMENT TO US, UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY US.

IF THIS PURCHASE ORDER CONTAINS A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT NUMBER, PRIORITY RATING, OR ANY OTHER INDICATION THAT U.S. DEFENSE PROCUREMENT IS INVOLVED, THIS PURCHASE IS SUBJECT TO THE RENEGOTIATION ACT OF 1951, AS AMENDED, AND THE SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS CONTAINED ON RIDER ATTACHED HERETO.

81068-B-R4

SIGN AND RETURN THE ATTACHED ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE PROMPTLY. SUBSTITUTE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORMS MUST NOT BE USED.

**DANA CORPORATION**
CLUTCH & MARINE DIVISION

BY H. Elliott
PURCHASING

1- ORIGINAL

310C

No. 0995 Dept. _____ Date Mar. 11 19 76

Name Agreement between Abels Sawmill Inc

Address and Dwight Canaan to Inc

| SOLD BY | CASH | C. O. D. | CHARGE | ON ACCT. | MDSE. RETD. | PAID OUT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paul Stuck | | (Orange) | | | | marked trees (12") |

| QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | PRICE | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Hundred Trees - to be removed when fit within 1 yr. - to prevent damage to other trees etc as far as possible. Woods to the East of Rd. 53 on Lorne Nodine Farm - Woods ~~goes~~ runs North Property lines. - Tops to be kept in woods or pulled back in Buffer not to assign this agreement. | | |
| | Ok Today for #3800.00 In full - | | |
| | Also Down Trees suitable for pallet log - | | |
| | @ $1.00 per M. Scaled after cutting + paid when done | | |
| | Homer Abel - Pres Abels Sawmill Inc | | |
| | Dwight Canaan | | |

Customer's Order No. _____ Rec'd By _____

KEEP THIS SLIP FOR REFERENCE

Rediform 5H 32

March, 18th, Harry has been bringing logs from one of Allen Graber's farm woods, and they are already down, and Harry has to cut them to length, and skid them. They were bulldozed down, and are quite dirty, but we will use them. Homer had looked at them back in February, and said he would purchase them.

The next day, Homer went to Leo, to the International tractor dealer to pick up ignition parts for the forklift. A resistor, coil, and a wiring harness. The cost was, $36.68.

On the 20th, Homer went to an auction near Bryan, Ohio, The sale was of Zetta Mae Ames, items and Homer spent $120.50, on several items, including a saw sharpener, and pipe, plus some more.

We are using an average of 135 gallons of gasoline in the mill every two weeks, and the truck average is about the same. Roughly $73.00, each for 2 weeks.

About every 20 days, we are using $565.00 of staples to make our pallets, or 15.5 or 16 boxes. The boxes hold between 16,000 and 22,000 staples. That's a lot of holding a staple gun.

We have reached the end of March, and you know what that means, pallets delivered, Dana, we made 18 trips this month, Hooray. There were 3,957 pallets, and 2,725 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund. 1,675 pallets of 9 different sizes, and we made 7 trips. Several sizes were notched for 4-way entry. New Haven, two trips, and 500 pallets of 4 different sizes. For a total of 6,132 pallets.

April begins with what Harry has been hauling, Mitchner, Ferguson, and Newcomer. Ralph has been cutting some of these, and Harry some. It is becoming harder to sort out, but we will get it done. Hubert McNamara, had Homer cut down a large Cottonwood tree, and we paid for 332 feet worth.

Harry also brought a load of Ash from Hicksville, as well as now working some at Botteron's woods. I think Harry is working 5 or 6 woods in the early part of April. DeWayne Baker's also. Ralph has been working on the Mitchner and Ferguson woods.

On April 6th. Homer went to Tractor Supply, where he purchased a muffler and a section of exhaust pipe for the International truck, for $9.35. This muffler was to satisfy the need to have a muffler, it is not anywhere near factory original type.

One of us went to Burtzner & Wilhelm gravel pit west of Waterloo, and got a load of washed pit stone, #2's. These were needed, because the large limestone were too rough in a couple of places. The electric bill, was $103.96, it looks like it is going to be a little over a hundred dollars most months.

Glen Newcomer had a load of logs for us, and Homer went and picked them up.

Ralph and Harry have been busy, with Mitchner and Ferguson, and Harry got a couple of trees to cut somewhere, also.

Starting the 21st, of April, Ney Lumber started a rush of 13 loads of their pallet logs to our mill. It ended on the 30th, with 26,785 feet, and we paid $2,590.65 for the logs. They ranged from 8' long to 14' long, and were straight, but not very large diameter.

On April 20th, the sawmill received another part of the last order from McHugh's in Lansing. Homer had requested a box of 4 different sizes of belt lacing, and they were having trouble finding the supplier. When it arrived, there was an apology written on the shipping slip. Also a comment, "Finally found a place to get these lacings". The order of lacing cost $58.93. Just thankful to get it. I know, that at that time there were a lot of small businesses still using flat belting, and I think even now in 2022, it is still available in some locations of the country.

We are again having trouble with the Hercules engine. The valves are not closing properly. Homer sent them to Hart's in Cecil, Ohio, to have them re-faced. It cost $14.58, but after they were in and we ran it, it was worth it, because it ran better and there was more power, too. 11 of the twelve were re-surfaced. The other one was at the shop, as well, and they checked it and it was okay.

The fuel bills for the mill and truck tanks. Mill, 4-17-1976, 241 gallon, and The previous fill was on March 30th, and that one was only 130 gallon. The same order for the truck tank, 170 gallon, and on the 30th, 120 gallon.

The Ford backhoe, just got a new generator and regulator, also a muffler and a short piece of exhaust pipe. All for $81.35.

I have come to the end of the month, and it is time for a report on pallets delivered. Dana, 2,825 pallets, 1,425 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 1,760 pallets, New Haven, 275 pallets.

Farm and custom lumber, sadly I do not have any information about this material this month. We only had one load of firewood, for the month.

May, begins with Ney Lumber delivering another 5 loads of logs in the first 2 weeks of the month.

Here is a timber contract, between Scott Hook, and Abel's Sawmill, Inc. "Agreement to purchase all timber in woods on 80 acre and former Warstler farm. This is in Stafford Township, DeKalb County. Start cutting at South edge of woods, and work North. For the total price of $8,000.00. A check today in full. 8 months to finish, get some off, in one month, so the bulldozer can start clearing. Also agree to pay $800.00 upon delivery to the mill, of brick and stone from old two story, brick house. Signed by both parties". This was sighed on May 5th, 1976.

We have had some rains recently, and one of us went to the gravel pit at Waterloo, and picked up 6.4 tons of #2 pit washed stone, for use in the driveways again.

Homer ordered a Black and Decker reciprocating saw. It was ordered through Belsaw wood working equipment company. Also ordered were 2 clamp on lights that had movable metal support and could be adjusted to shine in a specific locations. One more thing ordered, was a 10 power magnifier, that had a headband to support it. These items cost, $100.40. Homer liked the saw because the Pyle electric crew had used one to cut off the heavy gauge wire that was used in the electric update work.

Homer took some time off and made a trip to a location in Virginia, to visit a business that had old steam related equipment, and if they had some of the right items, he planned to purchase the items. He stayed in Staunton, Virginia, one of the nights. A single roon was $12.48 at that time. He stopped at Natural Bridge, Virginia, on the way.

Homer did not buy much, it was more about seeing some of the country. My mother did not like to travel, other than to see family in Wayne County, Ohio. So this is something Homer enjoyed. He was back to the mill on the 25 of May and ready to go again.

Ernie Hurni, is working in the afternoon's and going to school in the mornings. Ted has decided to take a couple weeks off and go on vacation. He is going back to Washington state to see family again. He grew up in Tacoma, Washington.

The Pine lumber to make the sticks for Dana, came from Sutherland Lumber again, and this time there were 60-1x10x16' boards. They cost $282.67.

Dad and mom, have been advised by their accountant to be paid for the lease of the land that the sawmill and log yard is on. This goes back to when the company was incorporated in April 1969. So there is a payment for the current month, and there is one for time in the past, after 1969, that was not paid initially. They are almost caught up and it will soon be just for the current month.

When Homer made the beginning payment for the Scott Hook timber and the brick and stone from the house, the mill did not have the cash flow to do it, and Homer paid that money from their personal account. Now it has been paid back, as of May 27th.

The current electric bill for the mill is $96.66. We are making progress with watching and not spiking the demand needle on the meter.

This month, the mill fuel used was 162 gallon and 165 gallon, two weeks apart, on the 4th, and the 18th. The truck tank, on the other hand, used 110, and 160 gallon.

We are at the end of the month, and the pallets delivered were, Dana, 17 trips, and 2,960 pallets, and1,925 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 9 loads, and 750-1x1x30, and 1/4", 1,112 pallets. New Haven, 825 pallets.

I do not have any information for custom and farm lumber, and only one fire wood load delivered.

On June 3rd, 1976, Homer made a down payment for a new engine for the International forklift. We had bought it used, I think in 1969, and it was at least 3 years old at that time. It had been a sawmill forklift at that time. The down payment was $500.00, to Sherer and Maxfield in Leo, Indiana.

The Black and Decker Cut Saw came in and along with it the 2 lights for close up lighting for small equipment.

Early in June, the Ney Lumber mill delivered four loads of logs to our mill. These logs are clean ad straight, but smaller than average. They do make lumber, though. The 4 loads cost $1,373.35.

June 9th, and 10th, the new electric bill was, $79.18, and the Duo-Fast bill was, $556.50. We also needed a new supply of Invoices to sent for payment for pallets, they come in triplicate, & cost $60.00.

The rest of the bill for the new forklift engine was, $1,034.24 on June 10th. At least it IS new. It should be good for a long time now, and be very dependable too.

The average load of pallets, delivered to Crane Edmund, paid us $360.00 gross income. The June electric bill was lower at, $79.18. That was a nice surprise, and shows it is possible to keep the bill controlled, if we pay attention.

Harry has been working the Dwight Carnahan woods, cutting, skidding and hauling. Scott Hook has started hauling the brick and stone from the brick house.

Our plan is to as much as possible to keep the brick and the stone from the foundation separated, if possible. We are going to put most of the brick in two piles, one along the driveway to the sawmill, North and West of the house. The stone will be mostly in a couple of places, along the road on the way in, and East of the new steam mill area. There is also a location South of the farm barn. All in all, it worked out pretty well. There were about 34 loads of the material, when it was all delivered. The plan for the brick was to use it for driveway work, when it was needed instead of stone or gravel from a pit.

The 1976 National Threshers Assn. Reunion, is Thursday-Sunday, June 24-27th, and I do not know if Homer went or not. I will say this, this is one of the best shows in our area. There will be a copy of the front page of their advertising paper for this years event, on the next page.

We picked up some supplies from General Electric Supply Co., that had been on back order. The invoice is not clear what the items were, but there were two of them and they cost, $38,69.

The gasoline slips note that the usage is almost the same as the last ones, for two weeks.

The June pallet deliveries, Dana, 3,605 pallets, 1,925 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 500 pallets. New Haven, 1,562 pallets, in 8 different sizes. Dana is not back to where they were, but the other two are making up for it. That's a good thing.

There does not seem to be any information on farm lumber, and I suspect it may have to do with the loss of some of my paperwork in 2009, when my basement got wet, and I lost some material.

As we begin July, Harry is still working the Dwight Carnahan woods and also the Scott Hook job.

The Allison bill is $63.56. and the Duo-Fast bill is $755.90. The staple bill reflects the pallets we are making for New Haven and Crane Edmund. The parts and supplies from Allison's, indicate that there were more lighting and other issues with the trucks, as well as just general maintenance jobs.

The 4 loads of logs we received from Ney, were paid for, in the amount of $1,065.35. On the 13th, of July the electric bill was $68.53, which is nice. There was a tank of Oxygen from Allison's @$7.75.

Homer was over to see Mr. Polter, near Paulding, Ohio, when he talked to the people at Ney Lumber Co. The two of them agreed to Mr. Polter's suggestion that Homer ought to buy his used Clark, LP gas forklift to use in our pallet building. Homer paid $1,675 for it. I believe it will be a good addition for us. We have been using the hand pallet jack to move the pallets.

Toward the end of July, we had another order of Staples from Duo-Fast, for $774.20.

July 22, 1976, Nowak and Williams, checked the 9 twenty pound fire extinguishers, and all good.

210H

THE NATIONAL THRESHERS

# Steam-O-Gram

NO. 23 PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF "KEEPING UP THE STEAM" 1976

## Come To The 32nd NTA Reunion

## Thursday thru Sunday, June 24 - 27, 1976

"THE OLDEST REUNION AND ONE OF THE BEST
WHERE GOOD ENGINEERS GIVE GOOD ENGINES A TEST"

**FULTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS** on State Route 108, WAUSEON, OHIO

Just north of Exit Three, Ohio Turnpike. 125 motel rooms within walking distance. 3 motels close by.

LeRoy Blaker, Alvordton, Ohio, passed away August, 1975. He was founder of the National Threshers Association and President for 25 years. He stands beside his beloved Port Huron Engine. In his memory the Blaker Family will give the Award for the best restored Engine for 1976.

### PRE-REUNION MEET

SUNDAY, MAY 23 AT THE FULTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.
POTLUCK DINNER AT 12 O'CLOCK — EVERYONE WELCOME.
HANDBILLS, WINDSHIELD STICKERS, DISTRIBUTED AT THIS MEETING
PRE-REUNION DUES ACCEPTED.

## Admission Fee Required By All

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE — ONE PLAQUE PER EXHIBITNG MEMBER

Crane
B. Order # 15335
Keep on hand –

60 45-½ X 29½ 4-way

40 44½ X 34½ 4-way

150 35-X 28 4-way

20 5-4½ X 32 4-way

15 29X29 4-way

12 28 X 41½ 4-way

100 32 X 40 ~~4-way~~ Jahwinn pedal pallet 4-way

ordered 100 43X44 ~~50-5-26-76~~ 50-7-11-76 4-way #16817

Blanket Order
#15310
60X35 4-way
100 Per week

This is a list of pallets we make for:
CRANE EDMUND

Scott Hoke Henry
Scale Jul 26 '76. 2nd Draft

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 100 | 91 | |
| 225 | 169 | |
| 55 | 25 | |
| 112 | 106 | |
| 28 | 49 | |
| 126 | 91 | |
| 126 | 80 | |
| 55 | 121 | |
| 81 | 66 | |
| 121 | 48 | |
| 43 | 169 | |
| 126 | 144 | |
| 169 | 190 | |
| 56 | 100 | 2555 |
| 99 | 22 | 2465 |
| 112 | 43 | 50 20 |
| 54 | 71 | 5, 05 |
| 137 | 71 | 25L.00 |
| 56 | 14 | Henry |
| 108 | 71 | |
| 43 | 253 | |
| 56 | 40 | |
| 190 | 176 | |
| 150 | 44 | |
| 64 | 81 | |
| 64 | 136 | |
| 2,555 | 2465 | |

Scale Card
Homer's writing.

July 26th, there were 8 V-belts purchased, 4-66" belts and 4-80" belts, which would be for two of the cutoff saws. These saws do a tremendous lot of work and every time we are using the sawmill, we are using these saws. Basically, that is sometime on 4 days out of 5 a week. There are a pair of belts on each of these saws, a matched pair. We bought an extra set of each, to be ready.

The July pallet deliveries are, Dana, 3,317 pallets, and 1,425 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 1,475 small sticks, 30-1/4" long, 1,092 pallets, New Haven, 300 pallets.

The 3rd, of August, we picked up 61-1x10x16', and 15-1x12x16' of Pine lumber for Dana small sticks, for $401.71.

Earlier in this story, I made mention of the steam show on the James Whitbey farm, on Carroll Road. He had organized the Old Time threshers & Sawmill Show, in 1950, and was himself a former engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad, operating steam Locomotives. He died recently. The farm where the show operated, became the home for Carroll High School, later.

We picked up 3 cartons of 1-1/4" staples, 10- cartons of 1-1/2" , and 7 cartons of 1-3/4" staples for a cost of $764.55. There is a note with the invoice, that there has been a price increase on them.

As of August 6th, Harry is still hauling logs from Scott Hook's woods. He is doing the cutting too. There have been 8 loads of logs from the Ney Lumber Co. early in August.

On August 13th, I have record that Ralph is again cutting trees at Scott Hook's, and Harry is hauling them. They are again both making good weekly wages working the woods and hauling.

Steve Culler brought in a load of logs and sold them to us. Homer went to The Anderson's to pick up motor oil and batteries, as well as general merchandise. The total was, $481.04.

Ben Queen started working for us on August 23rd. His work will be mostly making pallets.

Pallet delivery report time again, Dana, 18 trips this month, 3,663 pallets, and 1,500 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 2,525 small sticks, 1,065 pallets,New haven, 725 pallets.

Homer has been stopping by me about 3 times a week to tell me he is going in the house to lie down for a while. This means that his heart is not getting enough oxygen to his chest, because the arteries are plugged quite a bit. Angina, tightness in the chest. If it is early in the day, he probably will be back out again. If later, probably not.

Ney Lumber brought in 3 more loads of logs early in September. They continue to get pallet logs. W. Fred Johnson, from Angola, and a buyer of veneer for WoodMosaic, in Louisville, Ky, stopped in to see if we had anything they would be interested in. We did not at this time.

We have been using the new Belsaw belt sander/grinder, Homer ordered 100 of the 40 grit belts, and, a set of planer knives, as well as a dozen mill files, for a total of $116.55, on September 11th,

The new electric bill is $61.86. That is really nice. Nicer yet is, not having any fuses burning the paper off. So far,of recent, we are not tripping the demand needle on the meter, either.

On the 15th, of September, Homer made a connection with Glenn Sanders, and Glenn had a 1967 Chevrolet one ton truck for sale. It was red and was beginning to show some rust, but only had around 70,000 miles on it. The truck had a flat bed, which could be very useful to the mill. Homer purchased it for $1,750.00. There were times when we needed a truck this size to take a partial load of pallets, or use it to pick up supplies, instead of the larger trucks.

Thursday, the 16th, Homer went to an auction and purchased some supplies, as well as some track and pipe. I believe the track was the type we were using for the carts we moved the finished lumber out of the sawmill with. It would be about 2-1/2-3-1/2" high, and would usually be considered as small gauge mine track.

Walter Reas, cut and hauled a load of logs to the mill. There was about 1,117 feet of scale, and we paid him, $141.24, for it. This was on the 20th, of September.

The newest order of staples, were 26 boxes, at a cost of $1,007.20. The gasoline, has been about the same for several months. Now we are getting near the cold season again, and on the 29th, there is a slip for 355 gallon of #2 heating oil, for the electric over fuel oil heaters. We have 2-3 of these heaters,and they are used to keep the staple guns warm enough to operate, as well as keep the operators hands warm. The fuel oil cost, $141.61. We also had 2 of the fruit tree type of heaters, that also used that fuel. Once those heaters get to full burn, they re-cycle the first burn back through and are very efficient. In the re-burn stage they actually roar.

Between the 22nd, and the 30th of September, Ralph and Harry cut, skidded, and hauled, nearly 30,000 feet of logs from the Scott Hook tract, and it is finished.

Fred Knowles, driver, "Hen", delivered 3 loads during this time, as well.

The edger main shaft, received new bearings late in the month, in the amount of $68.72. Even with being greased on a regular basis, these bearings receive a lot of punishment on a daily basis. The saws are only 16" in diameter, and run at a pretty high RPM. The unit rips all of the various wood that we send it's way. The 1-1/2" lumber is the hardest on it, because the saws are just running, and then suddenly there is a piece of hard wood like Hickory, or Oak 1-1/2 inches thick. Quite often, there are 2 cuts being made and that is Shock.

Paul LaRowe, cut and skidded 2 loads of logs out for us to purchase, and Homer hauled them. Paul was paid $289.50 for the logs.

Homer purchased a 2 HP, portable air compressor, to use with a sand blaster and paint gun air supply. It came from Sears, and cost, $308.29.

The end of the month is here again, and we delivered pallets to Dana, 3,847 pallets, 2,720 blocking pieces. Things are looking up with the Dana pallets, we are a little short of four thousand pallets for the month. Crane Edmund, 600 pallets. New Haven, 275 pallets.

I do have a fire wood list again, and Johnson, 1 load, Kemmerling, Roberts, 2 loads, Clayton Baker, Bill Urban, Malcolm Bender, Pat Jones, Harold Smith, John Carpenter, William Miles, Walter Reas, and Steve Jarrett. These paid, $234.00. There is no list of farm lumber.

FFICE AND WAREHOUSE:
ERIE STREET, LANSING, MICH.
PHONE 485-0633
AREA CODE 517

# RAY E. McHUGH CO.

*Hardware Specialties, Logging and Saw Mill Supplies and Equipment*

~~Box 5222, No. Lansing Station~~
LANSING, MICHIGAN ~~48905~~

Ray E. McHugh Co.
514 Erie St.
Lansing, Mich. 48912

NOTICE

Came 10-6-76

Dear Customer:

Please be advised that Ray E. McHugh Company is now under new management.

The new owners are Bill and Gail Cronkright.

Every effort will be made to maintain service and supplies at the highest possible level. Your continued patronage will be appreciated.

Store hours will be 8 a.m. to 7 p.m; however, emergency sales and services will be cheerfully provided at other hours. Call 517 485-0633.

Sincerely,

Bill + Gail Cronkright

As we begin October of 1976, Here are some prices of a few of the pallets we supply to New Haven. 23X23" square, light pallet, with 1/2" top and bottom, $1.00 each. 28-1/2x 36" light pallet, with 1/2" top and bottom, $2.10 each. The other one is 24"x36" light pallet with 1/2" top and bottom, $2.00 each. All of these are stenciled on both sides as well. The heavy duty pallet that we make for them is a 24"x36" with 3/4" top and bottom boards, and it sells for $2.55 each.

October 8th, we purchased another 40 pound tank for the LP forklift fuel, as we were having to fill it more often and it was needed sometimes, when the tank was empty. The new tank, empty cost, $60.00. We had the new one filled at the same time as the original one this time. Now we have a full spare tank.

Ney Lumber has delivered another 7 loads of logs recently. The bill came, and it is, $778.25.

The month's electric bill is $81.34, and still good, with no spike in the demand needle.

We had something happen that rarely happens, we had a chain saw chain that the teeth were not worn a whole lot, but the chain was stretched enough that there was no more adjustment. This only happens, when the saw chain oiler is not putting out enough oil as the saw is being used. We have not invested in the equipment to do this, because we have a dealer close by. So, while they were shortening the chain, they also adjusted the oiler to provide more oil when the saw is in use. The shortening job was only $2.00, and the oiler change was another dollar.

The next gasoline fill, we had used more fuel in the Hercules, than ordinary, at 209 gallon.

The backhoe tractor, needed a new radiator, and it cost, $150.19. The original radiator was 23 years old and finally there was no more repair.

There is a slip that noted that we had to purchase more roofing material for the original mill. It is quite flat, and the roll roofing only lasts about 10 years per re-roof. The material cost, $126.71.

The 1950 Chevy, needed a new battery, at a cost of $25.95. Repairs are a thing right now, the International truck just got a new steering arm, and we had to go to Decatur, Indiana, to get it. $50. 18. The backhoe needed some other repairs as well, at a cost of $50.70. Meyer Farm Equip, supplied that.

We acquired another early 1950's Chevy 1-1/2 ton truck for parts from Ernie Hurni, for $100.00. As I look back, I wish I had just one of those old Chevy trucks now. Yes, they had some issues, but at least you could work on them, they was room to get around the engine, and anything else you needed.

I am a year older on the 19th of this month, now 31, and have been married 11 years, as of the 23rd.

On October 27th, we purchased a heavy duty battery charger, from Allison's. It was a Marquette, and you could start off of it when the battery was dead, which was really nice. 2 minutes to start. Nice. The items purchased in October at Allison's was a total of almost $500.00, including the charger.

We are ready for the end of month pallet report, Dana, there were 22 trips, and 4,100 pallets, Yea! There were 1,925 blocking pieces, as well. Crane Edmund, 580 pallets, New Haven, 525 pallets.

The October fire wood will be on the next page. There were 11 customers.

The fire wood for October, Jim Hayes, Dale Johnson, Clarence Bangs, Mrs. Henry Greenfield, RickWanamaker, Clayton Baker, Tim Lockwood, Charles Baber, Leo Carper, John Pulver, and Brady McCoy. There was a total of $198.00 from these people.

There is a related item that I want to bring into this story. It is about a very large Walnut tree that was cut, on November 3rd. by Presley Logging of Waterloo. Homer went to see the tree before it was cut. And said it was amazing to see. The log was 57' long, with no blemishes. The small end still measured 27" The log was purchased to be turned into veneer. The total volume of the log in board feet was 2,389. The tree was cut in an area where there were other old growth timber, East of Montpelier, Ohio.

We were having a radiator leak with some piece of our equipment, because there is a slip for 2 bottles of the product, "Barr's Leak" radiator sealant, from Allison's. We have used this product for a long time and are very satisfied with the job it does. It looks like we tried to seal one of the tractors, radiator, and it did not work, because there is a slip two days later, for a replacement radiator from TSC, in the amount of $150.47. I think the tractor was one of the CO-OP's or the Allis WD. Tractor Supply Companywould have been able to supply either of those.

We did order another three boxes of saw bits from the McHugh Co, under the new ownership, and they had the bits sent directly from the Simonds Co, Chicago warehouse to the mill by UPS.

Homer purchased a wood and coal furnace from Donald D. Johnson, for $50.00. His plan was to install it for our use in the pallet building. It would have been more efficient, than what we were using.

On November 17th, we purchased logs from Gary Botteran, and Roger Stebing, both were one load and they had cut and delivered the logs. One more the next day, from Maurice Casebere, Harry, cut and hauled. On the 19th, Homer paid A. J. Washler, $732.50 for 35 trees and Locust in his woods.

After work on the 19th of November, Homer and I were sitting talking about the business, and in the process of the conversation, Homer said, "If something happens to me, I don't want you to keep this business because you think I would want you to". I do not remember what else we talked about that day, but the quote still sticks with me today, 46 plus years later, as I write this. Little did I know, then.

On the 20th, of November, 1976, Homer went to an auction where he purchased a large air tank and a Hit and Miss engine. The engine was a Witte, 2HP water cooled engine, single cylinder. With it was a "Sallisaw" which would cut logs or firewood to length. The saw blade was 1/8" thick by 4' long and sharpened the same as a cross-cut saw. It cost $275.00. He purchase an air compressor, for $130.00. The air tank, was $40.00. There is an entry, on a auction pay card for a Int Wagon, for $50.00. He talked to the owner about the steam engine, boiler that were listed on the auction bill and later purchased them. See the sale bill on the next page.

Somehow, one of our chainsaws managed to get damaged seriously. Either it got run over on the log yard, or it fell off of a truck. We had a habit of hauling the saws on the back of a flat bed truck, nestled among the chains and binders , right behind the cab of the truck. If you turned too hard, the saw could roll of of the truck. I do not know which happened, but it cost $114.99 for repair, at Culbertson's. Both of those things had happened before, with similar results. Yet we continued to do it. I guess, we figured we would be more careful, but best intentions do not always bring good results.

# AUCTION SALE

20 Year Collection
80 GAS ENGINES

## Large & Unusual Auction
## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1976
## Time of Sale 10:30 A.M.

### LOCATION

Old Time Thresher's & Sawmill Operator's Show Grounds. Carroll & Johnson Roads, Fort Wayne, Indiana

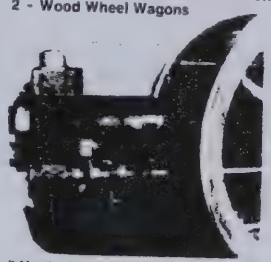
### DIRECTIONS

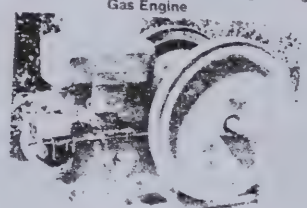
Take Interstate 69 to State Road 3. North to Carroll Road. then 3 West to Johnson Road. Watch for Sign. Fly in to Baer Field. Fort Wayne.

### TRACTORS — TRUCK — WAGONS

1936 John Deere B Tractor. Runs
1932 10-20 IHC Tractor. Runs
1928 10-20 IHC Tractor. Runs on Steel
2 - Wood Wheel Wagons

Narrow Wheel "Studebaker" Wagon
1951 Chevrolet Truck - Very Good ½ Ton Pick-up
Very Old Cross-Cut Saw Rig on Wagon for Gas Engine





"Wachs" Vertical Center Crank Engine, Very Old, Mint Condition, Estimate 5-7 h.p. with Boiler
25 h.p. Superior Side Shaft, Open Crank on IHC Steel Wheel Wagon - Manuals & Prints
12 h.p. Fairbanks
8 h.p. Witte on Factory Truck - Sq. Hopper
7 h.p. Economy Buzz Saw on Factory Trucks - Ignitor
7½ h.p. Galloway on Factory Trucks
6 h.p. Galloway Feed Grinder Engine
6 h.p. Fairbanks Bull-Dog
6 h.p. IHC - M - w/Ignitor
6 h.p. Stover
3 - 3-5 h.p. IHC - LB

### 80 GAS ENGINES

5 h.p. Ottawa Cross-Cut Log Saw - Like New - Complete
3 - 1½ Economys
5 h.p. Economy
5 h.p. New-Way
4½ United on Trucks
4 h.p. Witte - Sq. Hopper
1 h.p. IHC - Titan . Genco Light Plant - Complete - Restored
2 h.p. Witte Log Saw - Excellent - Square Hopper
2 - 3 h.p. IHC - M
3 h.p. Fairbanks Farmer's Friend Sprayer Engine - 1 Flywheel - Rare
2 h.p. Jaeger - Fairmont - 1 h.p. - Very Rare
2 - 1¾ h.p. United. 2 h.p. Witte on Trucks

2 - 2½ Stover, 2 - 1½ Fairbanks - Solid Fly Wheels
2 - 2 cyl. Standard - Twin Garden Tractors
7 - 1½ h.p. IHC - M - Ignitor - Wico
1½ Cushman, 1½ Sattley
1½ Stover - Tear Drop Flywheel
2 - 1½ John Deeres
1½ Challenge
2 - Aermotors - Excellent - Good
650 & 850 Delco Light Plants
Bluffton - 1½ h.p.
Maytags, Briggs, etc., Gristmills, Burrmills
Old American Air Compressor w/Tank, Parts, Manuals - D.C. Motors

### TO BE SOLD PRIVATE
### STEAM ENGINES - STATIONARY

14 x 18 Brownell Steam Engine - 1926 - w/100 h.p. Boiler - Running Condition
Located near Harlan, Indiana
Very Old "Frost". Large Flywheel, 58" Dia x 24" wide - Approx. 125 h.p.
Located near North Manchester, Indiana

These engines would be excellent for your show.
Many Engines Not Listed Such As:
IHC, John Deeres, Economys, Etc..
Also Parts and Mags

Terms: Cash

Not Responsible For Accidents
Refreshments to be Served on Grounds
Call or Write for Free Detailed Listing

See arrows above

**R. BOLINGER**
OWNER
1-219-897-3262 Evenings
R. R. 1, LaOtto, Indiana 46763

AUCTIONEERS
Delbert Graft, Kendallville - 1-219-347-3311
Jerry Grogg, LaGrange - 1-219-463-3182

NOTE: This is a rare offering of some outstanding engines, in excellent mechanical condition. Owner selling due to personal interests. In case of inclement weather, sale can be held under cover

The electric bill is $103.85, which is up but, we are also producing more pallets now. We also may have spiked the high demand needle on the meter. We are just happy to have the availability.

I have a sales tax exemption, dated 11-15-1976, from the DeKalb Co. Highway Dept, meaning that they purchased some lumber for use by their department.

Twelve boxes of staples were purchased and we paid $461.55, for them. We picked them up at the Fort Wayne warehouse, West of St Francis college. The average price per box is now, $37.00.

I will include a long contract that my father signed, on the next two pages, after this one.

My parents have traded in their 1967 VW Beetle, for a new 1977 VW Beetle, the price $4,250.00.

During November, Harry is working, Roger Stebing's trees, and a tract East of Hicksville.

On November 27th, we picked up sand for a base for the next concrete job. It came from the gravel pit West of Waterloo. We got 3 tons of sand to level and solidify the last area in the 1960 section of the original mill. This will finish the area where the log deck is. We have not been able to use this area to store pallet material, because it was still not level and was dirt. It will make a great difference for us.

We are at the end of November, and it is pallet numbers time for the month. Dana, 3,284 pallets, 800 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 675 pallets, and 1,000 small sticks. New Haven, 300 pallets.

The firewood sales for November, Mr. Johnson, John Carpenter, Karen Walker, Mrs. Richard Frank, Dale Johnson, Arnold Milks, and Malcolm Bender. They paid, $125.00.

I have two orders for lumber, one for DeKalb County Highway Dept, for 12-2x8x10', and 40 board feet of Tulip Poplar, planed. The two brought in, $55.13.

The bills for the period of December 1st, to the 3rd, were, a 40# tank of LP for the inside forklift, at $3.97. The gasoline bill total for truck and mill, $370.63. Duo-Fast, staples at $811.50. Also a bill from Renner's Freight for $19.13, for staples delivered to the mill, which we did not authorize. They came and were delivered, so we paid it. Allison's, $21.07.

December 1st, Homer bought trees from Francis Dulle, in the amount of, 200 trees for $3,500.00, and paid up front $2,500.00. The price per thousand, was to be based on the quality of the trees.

Richard Wanamaker started working for the sawmill on December 2nd. We had delivered firewood to him and he decided he wanted to work for us.

On 12-4-1976, Homer purchased timber from H. W. Smith. He paid $550.00 now, for them.

The timber buyer's license is now $36.00, and the bond is $30.00 based on the amount of the largest purchase we made during the year. Our largest purchase was under $10,000.00, so our bond stayed at $30.00.

We all received a bonus check of the amount they had made the previous week on December 9th.

December 13th, Harry has been working the Dwight Carnahan timber tract. He is doing it all, here. cutting, skidding, and hauling the logs, and he is receiving $50.00 per thousand for it.

Crane Edmund special ordered 25 pallets, 42" square, and with 5/8" top and bottom boards. The price is $4.75 each. That order was sent on the 13th, and we delivered the pallets on the 15th. We had been making them, for several months, but there was never a blanket order to make them ahead.

The concrete for the log deck area of the original mill was poured on the 14th, and it was 5 cubic yards. The cost per yard was $29.00. We had calcium carbide added to keep the new pour from freezing, for a dollar a yard.

The truck Homer purchased from Hurni's, finally arrived at the mill on the 14th. It is a 1954 Chevy 1-1/2 ton chassis, and it runs yet. We have three of these trucks in our fleet now, and all of them run.

Homer paid $750.00 for logs at Allen Graber's property that are already down and skidded. Linzy Pressley has about 5,000 feet of logs all ready to haul, and Homer paid him, $800.00 for them. Harry has finished the timber at Carnahan's. Harry, brought in logs he has heard about, from Hugh Keegan, and they cost $1,040.00.

At my suggestion we subscribed to a trade magazine"The Northern Logger"for 3 years, for, $12.50.

December 27th, I was in Fort Wayne to get Nickel alloy welding rods at, Nowak-Williams Supply, for welding cast iron. They cost $63.00. I went to All Phase Electric, to get 200 watt light bulbs, in the 125,130 volt range, which is a heavy duty bulb, that will withstand quite a bit of vibration. I bought 60 bulbs, for $39.00.

Howard Troyer, called and ordered 50 pallets for his potato and onion storage. He wanted a standard size, 40"x48", but with 3/4" top and bottom boards. He wanted to pick them up in the new year, about the 5th of January.

Linzey Pressley, had logs ready to haul, and Harry brought them to the mill.

The fact that we have purchasing logs all over DeKalb County, has really come full circle, and we constantly get requests to buy logs from all around, because we recently turned down 2 or three who wanted to sell to us.

It is the end of the month and year, and that means, it is time to report the pallet sales. Dana, 2,924 pallets, and 1,640 blocking pieces, on 3 weeks, because of a week holiday shut down. Crane Edmund, 7 trips, 665 pallets, and 1,000 small sticks. New Haven, 375 pallets.

The total pallets to the 3 companies, for the year, Dana, 40,679 pallets and 20,365 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 10,843 pallets and 8,751 blocking pieces. New Haven, 5,425 pallets.

Farm and custom lumber, Dailey Motor Sales, 4- pieces of heavy lumber, Don Dove, Sugar Maple, Frank Johnson, 1x10" lumber, Gene Linnemeier, mixed lumber, Rainbow Farm Center, 1-3x18x12', Kenneth Koeppee, gate boards, Randy Diehl, 12- fence posts, City of Butler, park department, 1,500 feet of mixed Oak, Barry Schultz, 1 post. These made us $813.00.

The firewood for December, Pugsley, 2 loads, Mr. Johnson, three loads, Jim Hays, Larry Madden, Phylliss Thomas, Henry Link, Ron Roy, Ernie Grogg. These paid, $220.00.

We also sold veneer logs to WoodMosaic Co. The logs were a mix of species, and we received $300.00 for them.

1976 was a good year for us and we have a good crew to make it happen. So thankful for them.

1977

January 3rd, is a Monday, and Homer went to Leo, to Scherer & Maxfield to pick up ignition parts for the International forklift. Distributor cap, points, condenser, resistor and spark plugs. The total for those parts was, $23.23. The tractor had been running rough, and I think there was a crack in the distributor cap. Those of you that ran equipment from that period, know that you just changed all those parts and you were usually good to go.

On Wednesday, Harry brought in a load of Ash from Hicksville. It was a small load at 830 feet. Knowles driver, Hen, brought in a load today as well. That load was 1,797 feet.

Crane Edmund sent a blanket order for all of their pallets and materials, see following page. They had not had a blanket order for all of the items before. That means we can make them ahead of time.

There was a need for tire boots, or pieces equivalent to the side wall of a tire, with a taper around the edges so it will not interfere with the tubes in the tire, but will strengthen the tire where there is a damaged or weak spot. If the damage to the tire was not real large, and could be repaired this way, it saved us from having to replace the tire. There were 2 boots each of two sizes. Also a valve stem, for something that has tubeless tires. These parts cost us $14.74.

Richard Wanamaker worked the week of January 10-14, and left for another job. Good worker.

Wednesday January 12th, it was 12 degrees below zero, and we already had a lot of snow on the ground. Thursday when we came to work, it was minus 14 degrees. It is hard to even get motivated to work in that kind of temperature. If the forklift does start, the hydraulics are so slow that you feel like you can't get anything done. We do not have any heated buildings, so you hope the equipment will run. I wish I had a journal to get the comments from. Both of those temperatures I mentioned, were records for those days, back to 1948.

We did get the equipment to run, and on the 12th, we delivered two loads to Dana, and one to Crane Edmund. On Friday the 14th, we delivered a load to New Haven, and a load to Dana.

The staple guns had to be kept heated to operate. The log yard was frozen solid, and with snow on it, like it was, there were small uneven places,maybe 2", but felt like they were 6" high. When a log slips off the forks, you get up your patience and pick it up again, however it is better at that temperature than when it is 30 degrees with snow.

The Hercules started with the help of the new battery charger we have. We did saw lumber, but it is necessary to take it easy on the equipment, because everything is brittle when it is cold.

The Electric bill was up, at $139.45, but it does take more power to start when it is this cold.

THE TIMBER BUYER'S CARD
STATE OF INDIANA
License Number E0040

This is to certify that Homer Abel

(Signature of Buyer)

whose signature is shown above is an employee of and is authorized by Abel's Sawmill Incorporated

to act in their behalf as the timber buyer under the provisions of the above numbered license. The Licensee is bonded in the maximum amount of $3,000.00

EXPIRES
DEC. 31, 1977

Homer Abel
Signature of Licensee

By Authority of its Director—Dept. of Natural Resources

AGENT'S REGISTRATION CARD
STATE OF INDIANA
License Number E0040

This is to certify that George A. Abel
is a Registered Agent of the Licensee

(Signature of Agent) George Abel

whose signature is shown above is an Agent of and is authorized by Abel's Sawmill Incorporated

to act in their behalf as a timber buyer under the provisions of the above numbered license. The Licensee is bonded in the maximum amount of $3,000.00

EXPIRES
DEC. 31, 1977

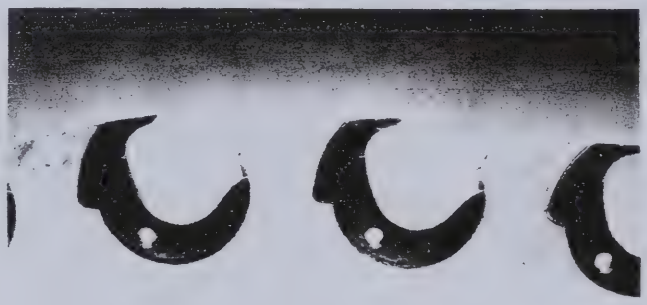
George Abel 4/P
Signature of Licensee

By Authority of its Director—Dept. of Natural Resources

Top, Homer and George's 1977 timber buyer's license cards. Bottom left, "Doyle log scale. Saw shank and tooth in a circular saw.

## DOYLE LOG SCALE

| 8 | 10 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 9 | 11 | 13 | 15 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18 | 23 | 27 | 32 | 36 | 20 | 25 | 29 | 34 | 38 |
| 24 | 31 | 37 | 43 | 49 | 28 | 34 | 40 | 46 | 52 |
| 32 | 40 | 48 | 56 | 64 | 36 | 44 | 52 | 60 | 68 |
| 40 | 50 | 61 | 71 | 81 | 46 | 55 | 66 | 76 | 86 |
| 50 | 62 | 75 | 88 | 100 | 56 | 69 | 81 | 94 | 106 |
| 60 | 75 | 91 | 106 | 121 | 68 | 83 | 98 | 113 | 128 |
| 72 | 90 | 108 | 126 | 144 | 81 | 99 | 117 | 135 | 153 |
| 84 | 106 | 127 | 148 | 169 | 95 | 116 | 137 | 158 | 180 |
| 98 | 122 | 147 | 171 | 196 | 110 | 135 | 159 | 184 | 208 |
| 112 | 141 | 169 | 197 | 225 | 127 | 155 | 183 | 211 | 239 |
| 128 | 160 | 192 | 224 | 256 | 144 | 176 | 208 | 240 | 272 |
| 144 | 181 | 217 | 253 | 289 | 163 | 199 | 235 | 271 | 307 |
| 162 | 202 | 243 | 283 | 324 | 182 | 223 | 263 | 303 | 344 |
| 180 | 226 | 271 | 313 | 359 | 203 | 248 | 293 | 336 | 383 |
| 200 | 250 | 300 | 350 | 400 | 225 | 275 | 325 | 375 | 425 |
| 220 | 276 | 331 | 386 | 441 | 248 | 303 | 358 | 413 | 469 |
| 242 | 302 | 363 | 423 | 484 | 272 | 334 | 393 | 458 | 514 |
| 264 | 330 | 397 | 463 | 530 | 297 | 363 | 430 | 496 | 563 |
| 288 | 360 | 432 | 504 | 576 | 324 | 396 | 468 | 540 | 612 |
| 312 | 391 | 469 | 547 | 625 | 352 | 430 | 508 | 586 | 664 |
| 336 | 422 | 507 | 591 | 676 | 380 | 465 | 549 | 633 | 718 |
| 364 | 456 | 547 | 638 | 729 | 410 | 502 | 592 | 683 | 774 |
| 392 | 490 | 588 | 686 | 784 | 441 | 539 | 637 | 735 | 833 |
| 420 | 526 | 631 | 736 | 841 | 473 | 578 | 683 | 789 | 894 |
| 450 | 562 | 675 | 787 | 900 | 506 | 619 | 731 | 844 | 956 |
| 480 | 601 | 721 | 841 | 961 | 540 | 661 | 781 | 901 | 1021 |
| 512 | 640 | 768 | 896 | 1024 | 576 | 704 | 832 | 960 | 1088 |
| 544 | 681 | 817 | 953 | 1089 | 613 | 749 | 884 | 1021 | 1157 |
| 578 | 723 | 867 | 1011 | 1156 | 650 | 795 | 939 | 1083 | 1228 |
| 612 | 765 | 910 | 1070 | 1225 | 689 | 842 | 996 | 1149 | 1302 |
| 648 | 810 | 972 | 1134 | 1296 | 729 | 891 | 1053 | 1215 | 1377 |
| 684 | 856 | 1027 | 1198 | 1369 | 770 | 941 | 1112 | 1284 | 1455 |
| 722 | 902 | 1083 | 1264 | 1444 | 812 | 993 | 1173 | 1354 | 1534 |
| 761 | 951 | 1141 | 1331 | 1521 | 856 | 1046 | 1237 | 1426 | 1616 |
| 800 | 1000 | 1200 | 1400 | 1600 | 900 | 1100 | 1300 | 1500 | 1700 |
| 840 | 1051 | 1261 | 1471 | 1681 | 946 | 1156 | 1366 | 1576 | 1786 |
| 882 | 1103 | 1323 | 1544 | 1764 | 992 | 1213 | 1434 | 1654 | 1874 |
| 925 | 1155 | 1387 | 1618 | 1849 | 1040 | 1271 | 1502 | 1734 | 1964 |
| 968 | 1210 | 1452 | 1694 | 1936 | 1089 | 1331 | 1573 | 1815 | 2057 |



shanks excel in cutting hard woods and frozen logs. For further information, write to Simonds Cutting Tools, P.O. Box 500, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

320

PURCHASE ORDER

# CRANE-EDMUND ABS

13403

UTE 6, P.O. BOX 44, BUTLER, INDIANA 46721 (219) 868-2161

THIS No. MUST APPEAR ON INVOICE. B/ CASES, BUNDLES, PACKING LISTS AN CORRESPONDENCE.

SHIP TO:

Abels Sawmill, Inc.
R.R.#1
Auburn, Indiana 46706

CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE:

1. To insure prompt payment mail invoice showing order number and with bill of lading attached, to general office, immediately after shipment is made.
2. No charges allowed for boxing, crating or packing.
3. Goods subject to our inspection on arrival, notwithstanding prior payment to obtain cash discount.
4. Goods rejected on account of inferior quality or workmanship will be returned to you with charge for transportation both ways plus labor reloading, trucking, et and are not to be replaced except upon receipt of written instructions from us.
5. If any items on this Purchase Order are regulated by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act, these items must comply with the regulations of OSHA

| e | Delivery Date | Ship Via | FOB | Terms |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1/6/77 | | | | |

| TEM | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION | AMOUN |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | BLANKET ORDER 1977<br>This Blanket Order to cover Crane Edmund's requirements for the following.<br>Specifications:<br>45 1/2 x 29 1/2 — 2.75/ea<br>44 1/2 x 34 1/2 — 2.86/ea<br>35 x 28 — 2.55/ea<br>54 1/2 x 32 — 3.19/ea<br>60 x 35 — 3.69/ea<br>32 x 40 — 2.55/ea<br>1 x 1 stakes x30" — ~~.8/ea~~ .08 | |

king slips must accompany all shipments, rtons containing same shall be clearly arked.

Ship in multiples to protect best possible freight rates or freight allowances.

CRANE EDMUND CORPORATION

PER Ed Hilger

January 13,1977, Homer went to Allison's to get a V-belt, some gasket material, battery cleaner, and a tank of Acetylene. The total cost of the items was, $19.65, with the Acetylene being, $9.60.

The newest order of 22 boxes of staples were delivered on 1-18-1977, and they cost $917.90. A note on the invoice that said there was a price increase on 1-1-1977. The average price per box is now, $40.00. Our profits are shrinking, and we will have to think about another price increase.

Thursday 1-20-1977, is the day that James, "Jimmy" Carter becomes president of our great country. We made a delivery to Dana, and went on about the day, either making pallets or sawing. We did saw in the morning, and the pallets were delivered about 10.00 AM. My daughter, Melissa was at the house today and my father, mother, Melissa, and myself had lunch together today. After lunch we began by sawing more pallet material. The log on the carriage was a large one. It was big enough that we were just able to saw it without having to use the chainsaw. That meant that it was probably about 36" in diameter. I am the sawyer today, and Homer has been keeping the deck filled and helping in the mill. At about 1:20, I am in the process of turning the log, with the turner. Homer walks up behind me and says, "I have to sit down". I did not suspect that he would sit where he did. I continue to use the turner, and am facing the turner, which means I have a hand on the hydraulic control for the turner, with my right hand, and am turned 50 degrees left, away from where my hand is. I did not know that my father sat down on the edge of the table where the boards fall off when cut. In about 20 seconds, I finish watching the turner. I turn around in time to see and realize that dad is sitting where he is. He did not touch me while he was getting there, and I see he is falling toward the running saw blade. I can't reach him and he will certainly die. I turn away and say out loud, "Oh No". I turned away because I did not want to see what happened. Homer certainly had a heart attack, and had passed out before he hit the saw.

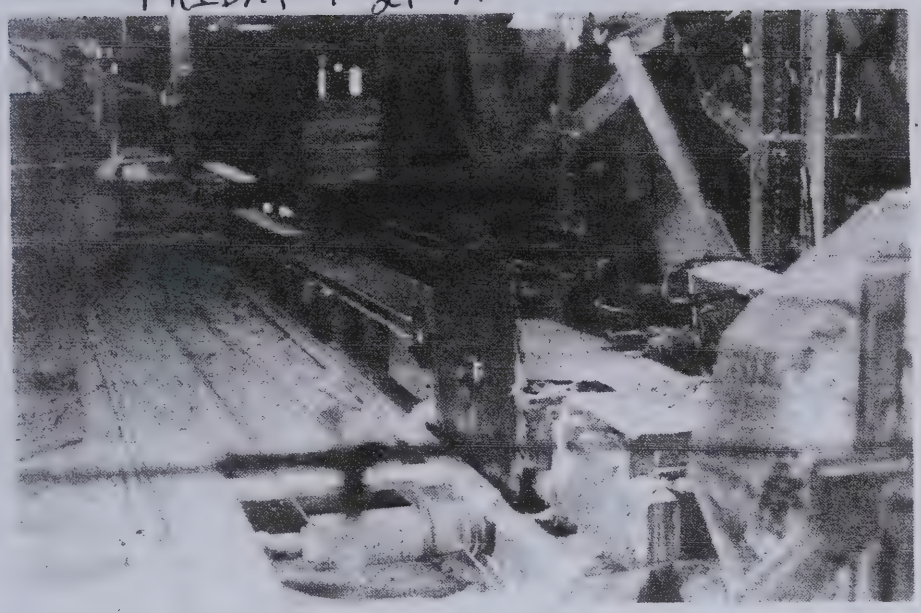
I will place a newspaper account of the incident on the next page. However, I was not there when the reporter made the picture and wrote the story. The account says a chain saw was being sharpened , which is incorrect. I had no conversation with the reporter. This is one of the hardest things I have in the whole story, to type. Do you remember the Friday evening in November, when Homer said, "If something happens to me, I don't want you to keep this, because you think I would want you to"? He knew THEN, that he did not have very long. That was his way of saying, "You do not have to do this", if you do not want to. He was having a lot more tightness in his chest, and but he did not let it stop him from continuing to be out there every day, right to the end. The thing that made it possible to go on, which we did, was Homer was a child of God, and I knew it, as well as he did. The Hope of Eternal Life is a blessing.

When I called the funeral home to have them come, they asked the third time, "Was I sure he was dead"? The next day, I made a delivery to Dana, and helped my mother with funeral arrangements. The funeral would be Sunday, at First Christian Church.

I had a conversation with the other workers, and we determined we would start in again on Monday, business as usual.

Monday, Dana was concerned that we would not be there, and called to see if we would be there. We were there on Tuesday, Wednesday, and again on Friday. No one said it would be easy, but go on we did. I will admit it was different now, the decisions were mine and my mother's.

FRIDAY 1-21-1977



## Death scene

OMINOUSLY SILENT after the accident that took the life of Homer Abel, the blade of the saw used to cut large logs remained a fierce presence. (Star photo by Pete Fullam)

# Sawmill owner killed in blade accident

A rural Auburn man was killed in a sawmill accident early Thursday afternoon at his family owned and operated Abel Saw Mill located southeast of Auburn on County Road 43 just north of County Road 50.

Homer L. Abel, 53, was killed instantly when he was pulled into the blade of a saw used for cutting large logs. Investigating DeKalb County Police and DeKalb County Coroner William Hathaway said Mr. Abel was helping his son sharpen a chain saw and apparently did not realize how near he was to the other saw when he leaned back.

Mr. Abel had worked at the sawmill his entire life and lived there with his wife.

Mr. Abel is survived by his wife, the former G'nell Seely, and his son, George, Auburn. He was born June 20, 1923 in rural Auburn to George and Zadie (Allen) Abel. Mr. Abel was married in 1944.

Also surviving is Mr. Abel's sister, Mrs. Harold (Mildred) Harnish, Hamilton. Mr. Abel had three grandchildren, and was a member of the First Christian Church.

Services for Mr. Abel will be held at the First Christian Church Sunday at 2 p.m. Burial will be at the Roselawn Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home after 4 p.m. Saturday.

FROM "THE EVENING STAR"

While I was at the mill on Friday after my father's death, I did not go out to the mill, but while I was at the pallet building, the inspector from the OSHA department came and he went and surveyed the area of the accident.

I had talked to Ted and Warren, and they had agreed to clean up after the funeral home was gone. They may have been there when the inspector was there, I do not know. Ted had seen death, when he was working in Alaska, for loggers there. Warren respected my father, and said he would gladly help. They did a good job and the mill was ready on Monday.

The Workmen's Compensation insurance inspector for the mill, came on Friday, and asked me if I knew which company manufactured the saw blade. His motive was to find someone to place the blame on for the death. I did not have the answer to that question, and I told him so.

In the end, the insurance company did pay, and my mother received payments for 10 years. The OSHA division sent a notice that we would be fined $500.00 for negligence and the death. Their stance was, there should have been some way to prevent what happened. We paid it and went on.

The current electric bill came, and it was higher, $139.45. And yes, we did spike the demand hand. This actually happened before my father's death, because we looked at the meter almost every day. He had seen it, and he was not happy.

The J-Box Company, had contacted us, they needed some pallet boards cut. They needed 1,300 pieces of 1/2" by 4" by 36" boards for their pallets. They were unable to get them for some reason. We made the pieces, and they picked them up We made them for 12 cents a piece, and it paid us, $156.00.

The end of the month, pallet time, Dana, 3,238 pallets, 350 blocking pieces. Crane Edmund, 574 pallets. New Haven, 225 pallets.

The farm and custom lumber, DeKalb Co highway dept, 8-2x8x10', Chalmer Tuttle, 100-1x6x10', 70-1x6x7', 8-4x4x12', Wayne Haynes, 34- mixed 2' thick by 14', and mostly 18' long. Larry Huss, 13 pieces of 2" material 14' and 18' long. Ron Hefty, mixed size project wood. Kenneth Koeppe, 11 pieces of mixed lumber, Bruce Provines, 57 pieces of mostly 2" material between 10'-16' long. Culbertson Sales and Service, 2-2x4x12', Hickory. Chalmer Tuttle, 45 mixed fence boards. A total of $670.00 dollars of income from these sales.

Firewood sales for January, N. Yoder, Mr. Johnson, 3 loads, Pugsley, and Kemmerling, for $140.00.

It has been a bear of a month, with the snow and the cold weather. Now there is one less of us to work and it is harder than I expected this last few days . There is a lot of mental stress, keeping up.

Early February, the local newspaper, had a report from some of the school superintendents, which said of the snow and drifting, " It won't quit. We have missed 10 days in the last month".

On February 6th,1977 it was a new record of minus 13 degrees. All of the snow is still on the ground, and the logs, if in a pile are covered in snow, making them hard to move with the fork lift. We persevered, and kept on going, like the mail deliveries, through wind, snow, ice and whatever. We did have Ernie Hurni, all the time, from last summer on, and now in the afternoons, school in the mornings.

Where I start this page, I am at February 11, 1977. Harry has been working on Richard Crow's woods, and somehow has managed to get some logs to the mill, in all this snow.

Meanwhile, I am very concerned about getting to the mill. I live 5 mile away, and sometimes the road has not been plowed when I need to get to the mill. I had to park at the end of the road 2 or 3 days recently. I really do not like to park on the road when they have not plowed, because of the risk of being hit or having to dig the vehicle out after they plow. I talked with my mother, and she agreed. My plan is to purchase a snowmobile, and park it near the end of the road with it locked in place. That way I can get in, move the snow and then move the car. I am not concerned about someone taking it, because all the neighbors are trustworthy, and there are very few snowmobiles out there right now. I bought one, and am very happy about it.

Harry continues to be able to bring logs to the yard. I suspect it was a case of that is what he has to do to get a paycheck. I believe logging was his sole income in the winter. He had a farmer growing crops on the land he owned but that was all. Hen Barron, was also hauling logs in, based on the checks we were writing.

I want to give credit to my mother, she stepped up and did all the paperwork, except some of the time I wrote the checks. She went to get the license plates, and wrote all the checks to pay for invoices that came in for what we purchased.

The February pallet deliveries were, Dana, 3,517 pallets, 1,800 blocking pieces, on 19 trips. Crane Edmund, 62 pallets. I do not remember if we ended the relationship with Crane Edmund, or they stopped production, but I think it was the later. New Haven, 600 pallets.

I do not have any farm lumber or custom lumber information for February. I really do think there was any because of the weather.

For our part, the weather was taking a toll on all of us at the sawmill, even though there was no more record setting cold, there was a lot more snow, making it even harder.

On March 3rd, I took both of the mill saw blades to Indianapolis to have them re-tensioned, & brought one back. It cost one dollar per inch of diameter, which was 52". The 30 HP electric motor on the edger is really nice, because we can rip anything at any time. Things are going pretty well, but I miss the daily behind the scenes help that my father had been doing, before the 20th.

Also, on 3-4-1977, we paid the bill for 20 boxes of staples, the average price was $40.00 per box.

I do not remember the incident, but Homer had been involved in a small accident at Meyer Farm Equipment at Avilla, on October 30th, and had told them to get it repaired and send him the bill. The damage was to one of their buildings. The repair was finished on March first, and they sent the bill on March 8th, in the amount of $142.70. We paid it promptly.

Howard Troyer, ordered another 100 pallets, 40"x48", with ¾" top and bottom boards. They were to be picked up on 3-23-1977.

The current electric bill is $113.45. The gasoline bill has been pretty constant at 170 gallon on 2 weeks.

On March 15th, logs came from Crow's, they delivered them. And were paid $306.15 for them.

My could have done it, she had before, but she decided that I should write the payroll checks, and I did, starting in the last week of January.

When I had the saws tensioned, I also took the other one to have more extensive work done on it. The damage was from when we hit the axle when the carriage jumped the track. We damaged 2 of the shoulders that the circular shank uses to lock the bits in the saw. On March 24th, we received an invoice, stating that the saw is ready to be picked up. The work on the shoulders, had to be welded, and then ground down. Then the saw was re-tensioned. The total bill was $52.00, and the welding cost $40.00.

There is a check stub that says we paid a $500.00 fine for negligence in not having some kind of safety guard in the mill that would have prevented my father's death. We paid on March 21st.

Ralph and Harry have been working the woods at Francis Dulle's, and it is not yet finished. The logs from this woods are nice, it has not been logged for quite a while. There are some rough logs, but that is what pallet logs are about.

On March 28th, I went to The Anderson's to get motor oil, and other supplies. There were 2 barrels of oil and the other items and batteries, light materials for the trucks, and mirrors, along with a mix of small items. I spent $166.60 for the oil, and, $156.64 for the other things.

Harry and Ralph, have been working both Dulle's, and Crows, although I really do not know how you work in all the snow. I do think that by this time the snow has settled some and that would make it some easier to work.

This writing has moved to a different level, because I do not have a lot of material to work from. It is the end of March, and here is the pallet report. Dana, we made 23 trips, which means that Dana is back to where they were 3 years ago. There were 4,615 pallets, and1,325 blocking pieces. New Haven, 375 pallets. I am glad Dana is back to their previous levels of production.

I have some farm and custom lumber slips. Jim Myers, a quantity of lumber, Perry Pugh, 10-1x6x8', Darwin Provines, 4-4x4x18', Neil Prentice, 27-1x6x16', and7-1x4x11'. There was $40.00 here.

Some fire wood, Larry Madden, and Charles Baber. For a total of $60.00. Also sold in March, Harry Hefty came and wanted to know if we had a manure scoop that would fir an older loader, that is 36- 40+ inches wide. We found one and he paid $50.00 for it.

April 1st, I took a chain saw to Culbertson's for repairs. The chain driver ring, which is replaceable, was about $4.00, and they cleaned up the wear on the bar, and shortened the chain. This cost $7.61 all together. The driver ring is a slip on the shaft piece, about 1-5/8" in diameter, and because the chain was needing shortened, the ring wore out prematurely.

The current electric bill is $97.20, which is nice after the higher ones earlier. We have been more careful about the starting of equipment, again after those higher bills.

On April 6th, I came to the conclusion that I was worn out and tired. It was more mental than physical, since the death of my father. I really did not realize how many little things my father was doing in the background, most were 5-10 minute things, as well as thinking ahead. He was not well health wise, but he was still covering a lot of territory. We would stop production of pallets and the last deliveries would be April 15th, 1977.

As I look back, I know that a week was not enough of notice that we we were going to cease production. The fact that I only gave a week was in fact, evidence of how mentally tired I was. Time has a way of teaching us. If I had been willing to pass some of the duties to some of the other very capable employees, it would have been possible to continue forward. I informed the employees of my decision personally. I also let them know that I would need some of them to stay on for 2-3 weeks to get ready for the auction. Ted did stay for the day of the auction.

The last two days of production, we delivered 2 loads to New Haven, and made one full load for Dana, on the 13th, and a partial load to Dana on the 14th. That last Dana trip was only 40 pallets.

On the 20th, I gave the crew jobs to do and I went to Indianapolis to pick up the mill saw we had repaired. On the 21st, I picked up a new bar for the chainsaw I was going to keep. I made the decision that I would keep all of the small wood working equipment. The tools would have to be sorted and I ended up keeping a large portion of the mechanic tools. The WD Allis-Chalmers tractor that Homer had used to skid logs and the 1967 Chevy one ton flat bed truck, were the 2 bigger pieces I kept.

Before we were finished, I also purchased a box of screw nails for the Duo-Fast air nail gun. I still had 4 boxes of staples for the staple guns, and 4 of the guns. There was a supply of parts for repair of the guns.

We did saw several farm lumber jobs after the pallet run was over, the last one about 2 weeks before the auction. We also sold quite a bit of lumber we had stockpiled before the auction.

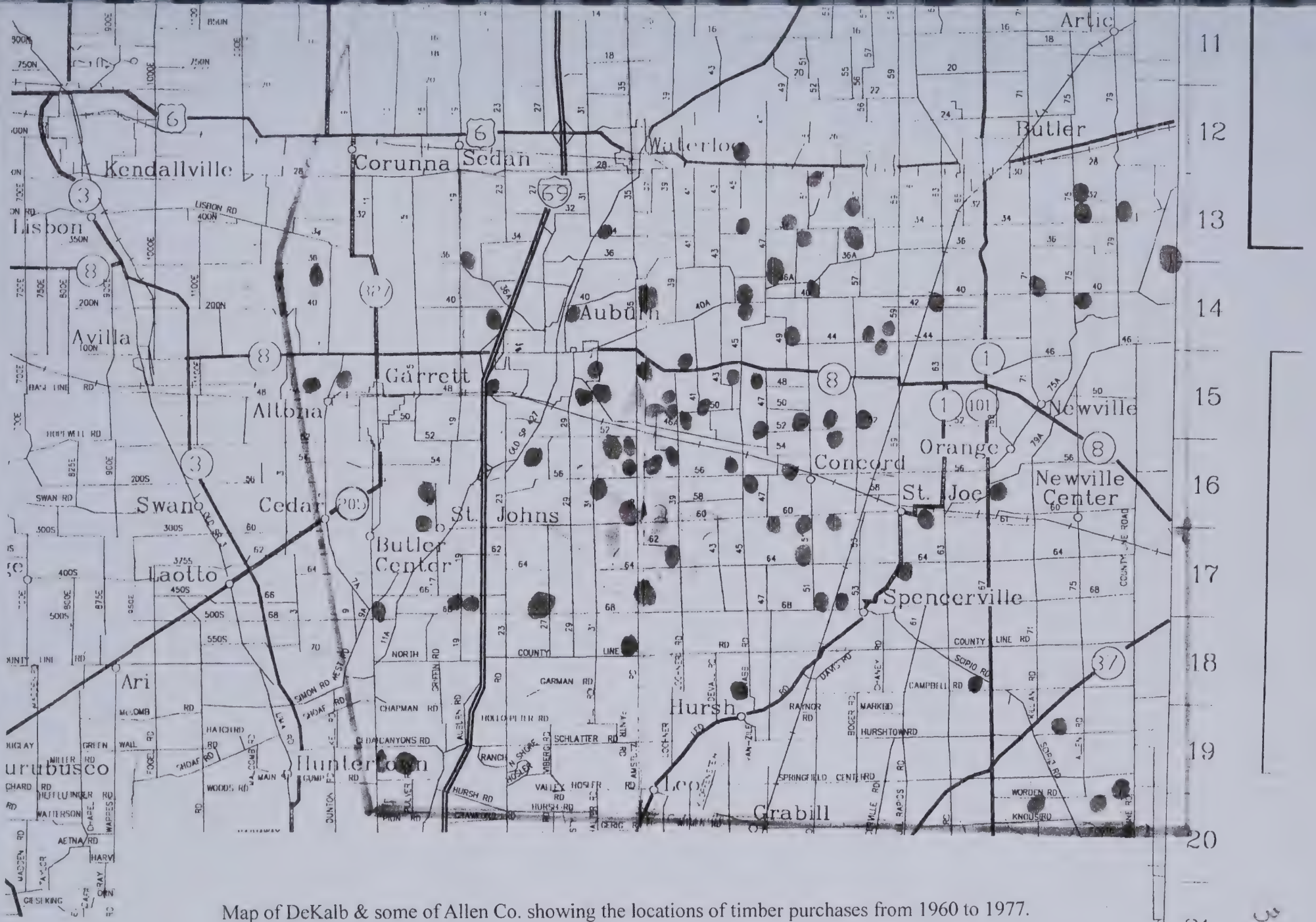
Warren did leave the last of April for other work. Ted liked helping and he was great help, with everything we did. Through the end of June, we had 30 different farm lumber sales. It was refreshing to have time to talk with the farm lumber people and not be on a hard time frame.

Sam Wise, my wife's brother, started helping with the auction preparation on June 1st.

There were loose ends to attend to, but the auction was the big thing.

Auction day was a beautiful day and we had a good crowd. It was on a Thursday, and Ellenberger Brother's ran two rings, selling almost all day.

At the time, I did not know what I wanted to do next in life regarding employment, but it was 21 months before I took a full time permanent job. I had 5 full time/ part time jobs in between.




Map of DeKalb & some of Allen Co. showing the locations of timber purchases from 1960 to 1977.

396-A

The general length of the logs we sawed were in the range of 9' to 13' and those lengths were easy to handle as well. We did saw logs up to 20' but that was a lot of hard work.

The total April pallets delivered were, Dana, 1,610, New Haven, 1,224. Over the summer, we sold 8 loads of fire wood, from our stockpile. I also had logs on the lot yet, which we did not sell at the auction. I had a request from 2 people to come and cut up the logs for fire wood, which I would get paid for.

In the 15 years, from April 1962 to April 1977, the workers of the sawmill made almost ½ million pallets. And nearly 250,000 blocking pieces of about 15 different sizes. We made pallets for approximately 15 companies, including the middle men and the seed corn storage man.

The year 1976, was our highest gross income year, and a net profit of about $8,000.00. We did not finish up the loose ends until the end of the year. We had to divest the timber that we had not yet cut, as well as some partial jobs.

I am glad to have been part of this venture, that began with one man desiring to make his own lumber. It became much more after I was injured in September 1961.

The learning experience for me was good, but I was still not ready to assume the helm when it became my turn to operate the business. As I look back, I can see that most people are not ready until in their mid 40's. I am not sorry and do not look back or wish that I had continued. I did not have the same vision that my father had. It was a good experience, and I experienced many things that were valuable later in life.

About 2 years later, I sold the last Belsaw mill I had kept back to build on a mobile home frame. It went to Mark Myers. He did build a mill from the parts, and he asked me to saw the first log. I did saw the log and found I had not forgotten how it was done.

I hope you have enjoyed this story of saw milling with circular sawmills. This type of sawmill was slowly dying, due to the use of small band sawmills that were beginning to come on the scene even as we were ending our operation. The band mills were and are much more efficient to operate. We were at the end of an era.

# LARGE PUBLIC AUCTION

MANY ANTIQUE, PRIMITIVE AND MUSEUM PIECES
HOMER ABEL SAW MILL—AUBURN, INDIANA

STEAM ENGINES AND GAS ENGINES (up to 226 h.p.)—3 SAW MILLS & EQUIPMENT—INTERNATIONAL TRUCK—CHEV. TRUCK 4800 SERIES—CHEVY 3600 SERIES TRUCK—DODGE 1/2 TON TRUCK—MISCELLANEOUS

Due to the death of HOMER ABEL, this merchandise, much of which was to have been part of a museum, we were planning will be sold at public auction, on;

THURSDAY JULY 14—9:30 A.M. PROMPTLY

LOCATED: 4 mile East of Auburn on St. Rd. #8 to County Rd. 45, turn right on County Rd. 45 and go 1 mile to Co. Rd. 50, turn right and go 1/4 mile West to Co. Rd. 43, then on Co. Rd. 43 to 2nd. set of buildings—watch for auction signs East of Auburn. (I-69 passes near Auburn's West Side).

STEAM EQUIPMENT: ALL STATIONARY TYPE-ball & Wood, N.Y., Engine #5834, size 11", bore 13", stroke 55-70 H.P., 300 R.P.M., rebuilt with stainless steel rings, slide valve, etc. ready to run, originally from Pottery Works in New York. Patented 1883 Center crank, 2 flywheels 3' & 4' diam.; Brownell Co., Dayton, Ohio, Engine #7201, Mfg. date 2/16/26. 14" x 18" slide crank, 90-120 H.P., 175 R.P.M., 4' flywheel, Manzel force feed lubricator & Gardener 3" governor & valve; good condition, last run 1969; Soule steam feed engine, Meridian, Miss., 2 cylinder, 5" x 6" H.P.. 300 R.P.M. speed twin restorable, about 1925; Chandler & Taylor, Indianapolis, In. Engine #9973, 13" x 16", W.W.I surplus.

BOILER: Bass Foundry & Mach. Co., Ft. Wayne, In., 5½' diam. x 16' H.R.T. with 54—4" flues. new about 1938, bricked in. Grates-Coal & wood type, good condition, riveted lap seams ½" plate.

MISC. STEAM EQUIPMENT: 2 steam pumps, Gardener-Denver 4½" x 3" x 4", Serial #94670 & 80235.

POP OFF VALVES: 4 valves, 2½" & 3" sizes, 14" tall, Brass 2½" diam.; Lonergan-Phil., Pa. old 1880s, cast iron shell, 13" tall 2½" diam.; Kunkle, Ft. Wayne, In. new, 995 C.F.M, size 3, 3" size, 7" tall Brass.; Scott-Detroit, Mich. 1880s, size 3, cast iron shell, 17" tall.; 5—Steam Governors, Flyball, Gardener, Pickering & other 2½" & 3" sizes; 2—Water Columns in good condition-; 3 Feed lubricator, McCord, Detroit; 50—Steam and Water Valves ½" to 4" diam. used, many are old and collector's items, Jenkins, Crane, Lunknheimer, etc. 1—4" x 12" Chime Whistle, Brass and good condition, 1½" pipe; 2-Injectors, 1-Pemberthy ¾" & 1 Hancock inspirator 1" 1879 collectors item; Chimney plate; Large quantity pipe ½" to 5", other steam related equipment.

SAW MILLS & EQUIPMENT: Hand operated Carriage & track with Frick wheels and axles, wood frame, cast iron bunks and knees, good condition, 44" opening x 15'; Hand operated Belsaw carriage & track, steel with 26" opening x 16'; McDonough Mfg. Co., Eau Claire, Wis. hand operated, opens 38" x 18' or 20' long, carriage with very heavy bunks & knees, needs new wood, 4 bunks and 8 x 8 wood beams, 12" diam. wheels & Boss dogs as well as lever set dogs, 3" taper each way, needs restored; Parts of 3 or 4 more carriages with enough parts to make complete; Wood Frame Husk in good condition, belt fed with reduction gear & 2-7/16" x 7' mandrel, ball bearing; 3 other mandrel shafts 2-3/16" x 10', 3" x 8', 4-7/16" x 16'; All or parts of 4 or 5 sawmills in varying condition; 4—Inserted Point saw blades, 2—52", 50", 40" in 3 styles, B and 3—7, 8, 9 gauge all in good condition.

POWER UNITS: Continental M330, 6 cyl. with clutch, 330 C.I.D. overhauled and ready to run; 12-V system, new 1964, sharp. Mercules HXE, 6 cyl. 935 C.I.D. 226 H.P. @ 2000 R.P.M. dual ignition and dual carburetion 4 speed trans and reverse with belt pulley, 12-Volt.; Continental M363, 6 cyl. with clutch and large blower, all one unit, 6-volt system; Continental 124 C.I.D. originally powered Huber pull type combine.

EDGERS: Tower, 3 saw with 30 H.P., 3 PH. elec. motor, new 8/75, 16" saws, 10' in feed & 10' out feed table; Old Giddings & Lewis 4 solid tooth saw edger, good museum piece; Cornell Slabwood saw, mechanical with 20 H.P. elec. motor, good condition; Corley Live Log Deck, 9 roll New H 82 chain for this deck; Corley Stop Load Hydraulic; Corley Log Turner Hydraulic.

MISCELLANEOUS FARM MACHINERY: International, McCormick, Deering hay loader, 2 sets wheel weights, 16' single chair, David Bradley elevator, Road grader cab; 1956 E-3 Co-Op tractor for parts; 2 row cultivators; Small portable cement mixer on runners; Butler Co. cast iron heater.

MISC. ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES: Would make nice museum pieces. J. A. Fay Co. Vertical Lumber resaw, 8" cut, patent 1858; Empire Washing Machine Boston, Dimensions, 32" x 4' drum diam.; Stevens Silent Meat cutter with 20" cast iron bowl and frame; 2 row Oliver Horse Drawn Cultivator; Steel beam walking plow; Milk safe; Large Hydraulic cider press and hydraulic pump; Slip scrapper; 75 Flat belt pulleys, wood, cast iron & steel, 4"-20" wide to 5"-48" diam. new & used; Many bearing hangers for above, Babbitt Metal type, most before 1890, some fancy; Shafting; Cast iron Forge & cupola blower, good condition.

(continued on next page)

OLD GAS TRACTORS: McCormick-Deering-International Harvester, 15-30 on steel; Regular with open steering gear & step up, road gear; F-12, 9.11 x 40 tires, set up parts only; 14, 9.11 x 40 tires 1938; F-20 39" tires runs, needs restored.

OTHER TRACTORS & OLD TRUCKS: V.A.C. Case airport baggage loader with hydraulic equip; Backhoe 1954 Ford 800 series with backhoe & front end loader; 20" hoe bucket and 6' front scoop, good condition; 1947–62 Dodge and Chev. parts. 1960 International, BC160, 16' flat bed; 1950 Chevy 4800 series with hoist less then 50,000 miles, good condition; 1949 Chevy 3600 Series, nice body, need rings; 1949 Dodge ½ ton pick up.

EQUIPMENT: Vickers hydraulic pump; Mechanical slab swa, good condition; Live rolls; Cut-off saws; Top saw frame cast iron; Lumber carts and track, Several sizes & styles of saw mill track; Cant hooks; Log tongs; Log chains; Log binders; and many more assorted saw mill work items. Pallet Stringer Notcher, new 3-73; single head MMT, 20 H.P., 3 P.H. motor, all good condition; Chain Saw, old, 2 man about 1948; V-Belts and pulleys assorted sized and widths.

AIR COMPRESSOR: Quincy, 2 cyl., 4" x 3", 7½ h.p. 3 PH with 80 gal. tank; Quincy 2 cyl, 2-1/8" x 1-7/8" cyl, 2 H.P. with 30 gal tank, 220-volt; Air King, 1 cyl. 1 H.P. portable; Rix 2 cyl, high pressure compressor and tank is ½" boiler plate for 2400 P.S.I.

HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS: 2-7/16" x 16"; 2-15/16" x 42"; 1-3/4" x 40"; Hydraulic Pumps, new, Joy MFG., co.; Other cyl. & hoses, etc.

FORKLIFTS: International 504 industrial 5 speed with shuttle forward and reverse lift; Clark 2500 lb. capy. bottle gas with extension forks, pneumatic tires, real nice; Yale electric for parts 2000 lb. cap.; M-3 Terra lift made by Case, on tacks with 235, 6 cyl. Chevy engine & trans. 2000 lb. cap.; E-3 Cookshaw 2000 lb. cap.; Barrett Mechanical hand lift, very good

LUMBER: 2500-3000 board feet or more. Walnut, Maple, Oak, Yellow Poplar, some is seasoned and some is not.

MISC. ARTICLES, TOOLS ETC.: 225 AMP Montgomery Ward (Lincoln Arc Welder, good condition), Sight Feed Acetylene Generators for Ox-Acetylene torch; 4–100 lb. cans of Carbide for generators; 2–Refrigeration coils 2' x 7'; Contractors wheel barrow; Pump jack; Platform scales; Bolens Sicle-Bar mower; Clinto 21" self-propelled mower; 3–Bathroom lavatories; 2–Bathroom stools; Single tub kitchen sink with drainboard; Drinking fountain; 3–Non-electric salamander heaters; 2–Elec. space heaters; Knipco; Champ Jr. 75,000 BTU; Large quantity storm windows, screens, doors, etc.; Large quantity furnace and blower pipe 4"–10"; 20 or more 55 gal. oil barrels; Shovels and other hand tools; 2–285 gal. gasoline tanks on stands; 2–285 gal. fuel oil tanks on stands; 150 glazed tile 8 x 8 16 blocks; 4–Squirrel cage fans 20"–28"; Buzz saw frame and mandrel for Farmall H or M.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT: 25–30 Electric motors 1 PH. & 3 PH.; ½ H.P. to 7½ H.P.; Thin wall conduit, new & used; 10–3PH. Magnetic starting switches; Fuse boxes and switches; Also many other small items too numerous to mention.

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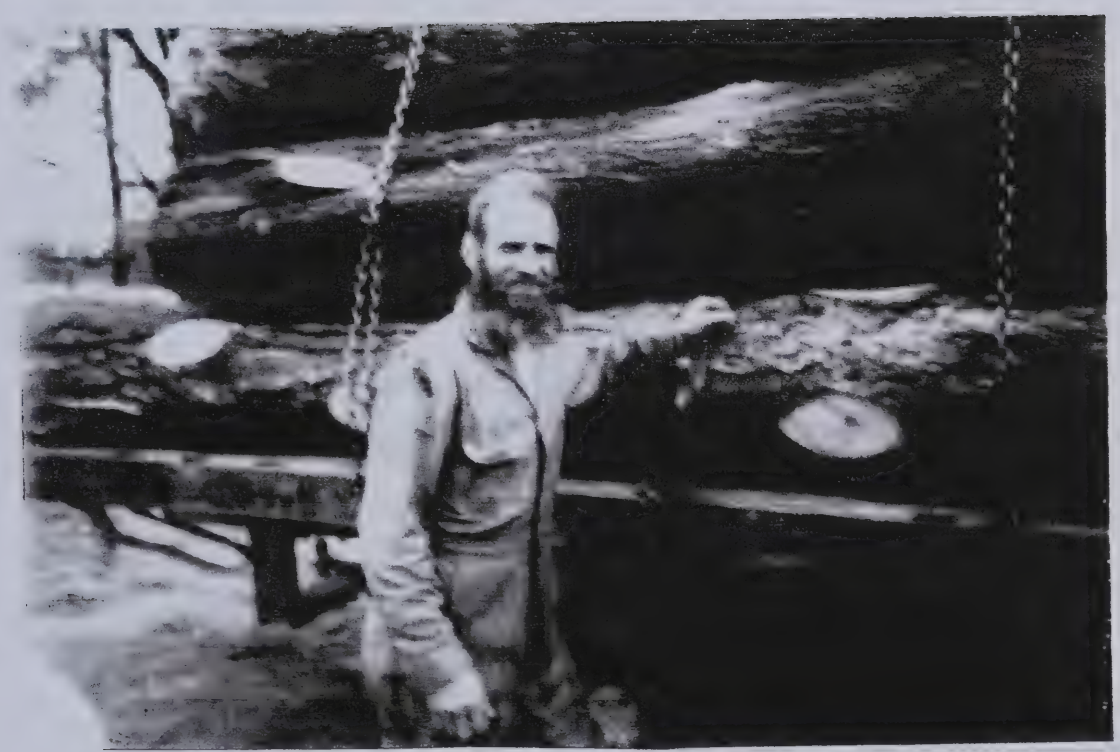


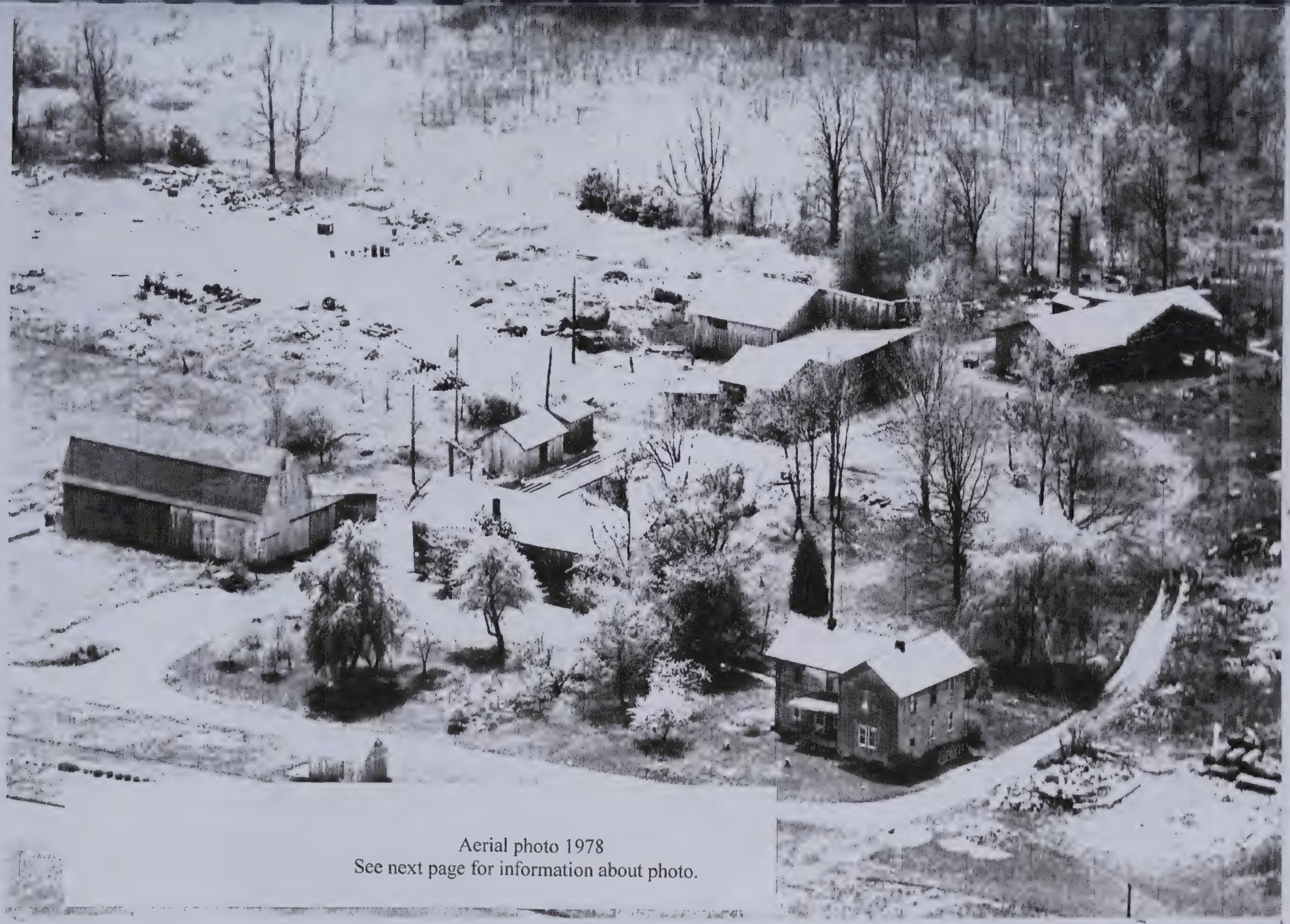
Homer Abel

Aerial photo of the Abel property in 1978, bottom left, farm barn, center, front 1965 section, pallet making building, and at rear side left, striped roof, the original mill section. Right of the original, 1960 section.

Next, left of original section, The Granary for storage, and behind it the 1975 electric building. Next, lower roof line in center of building is 1969 building after the fire. High section at front of building is over the log deck. The high roof line at left rear is the last addition to the last mill, used for storage and to house the slab wood truck.

Last, the beginning construction for the replacement steam mill. The front section is covering the boiler, the smoke stack is the separation, with the wide open end intended to be where the new steam mill would be, continuing to the right. This is the construction that is mentioned in the 1974-1975 journals Homer wrote.

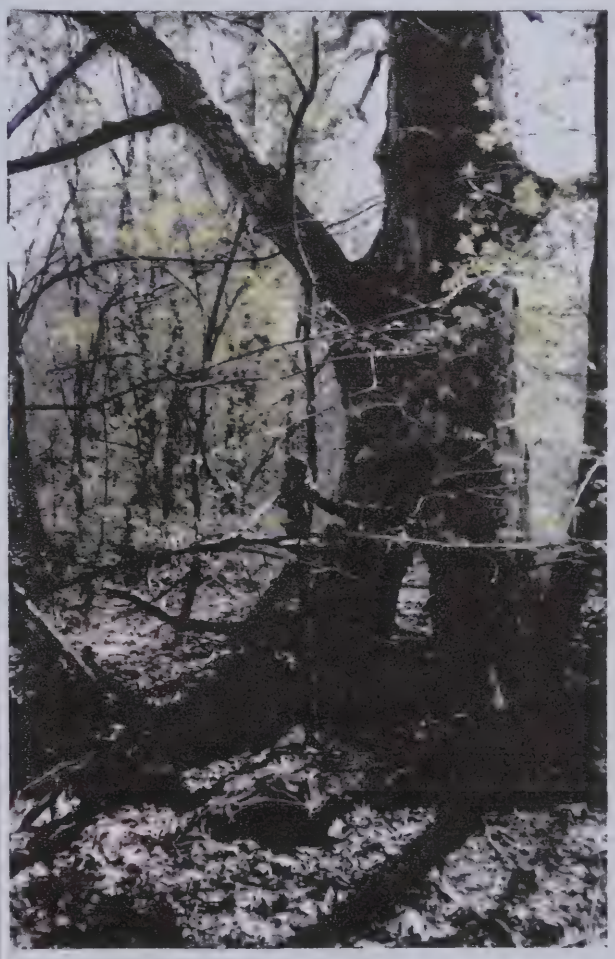
The large open area at the left rear was the log yard where "Hen" Barron unloaded his logs. The area to the right of the right center of the photo was the log yard Homer used and where DuWayne Goings was hurt.



Aerial photo 1978
See next page for information about photo.

Old Elm,
Auburn, Ind.

1911 picture of old Elm on 14 th. Street, Auburn.
Bottom Left, Sycamore that fell over, re-grew 3 trunks.
Right, Sycamore, in Hague nature woods, yes there
there is an opening at the base of the tree.



George Abel, circa 2012 beginning the process of sorting the material for this book.

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